

Draft Plan Goals and Objectives

Goal 1.0 Parks and recreational facilities should be accessible to all county residents.

Objective 1.1 All recreational facilities should be designed to provide access regardless of age, sex, income, cultural differences, location in the county, and handicap status.

Objective 1.2 Parks should be developed in tandem with incorporated communities so that existing resources can be leveraged to address the recreational deficiencies of rural residents

Objective 1.3 Parks planning should take into account population distribution and growth in the county so new parks can be placed where the population concentrations are the highest.

Objective 1.4 Where feasible, all parks should be equipped with sufficient supporting amenities such as bathrooms and accessible parking.

Goal 2.0 Open spaces and natural habitats should be preserved for future generations.

Objective 2.1 Parks should be integrated with the preservation of endangered species including, but not limited to, the Houston Toad and the Eastern Blue Jay.

Objective 2.2 Interpretive displays and other educational displays need to be incorporated with parks so that future generations do not lose the Bastrop legacy of its natural resources such as the Lost Pines.

Objective 2.3 Wetland and native species preservation should be considered during the acquisition and development of County Parks.

Goal 3.0 Public recreation should be integrated with all public services

Objective 3.1 Park planning and management should be coordinated with the Sheriff's Department to ensure the safety of existing and future parks.

Objective 3.2 All transportation programs need to be linked to facilitating access to future County Parks. Transportation services need to be considered for residents who live in outlying areas.

Objective 3.3 The County should promote active transportation by identifying sidewalk projects which will link existing parks to nearby neighborhoods.

Objective 3.4 The County should develop partnerships with existing recreation providers to provide programming opportunities

Goal 4.0 Public recreations should be coordinated with other community recreation providers to avoid duplication and promote innovation.

Objective 4.1 With limited financial resources, the County needs to consider joint venturing with incorporated communities, school districts, State installations and other non-governmental community organizations so that their resources can be leveraged to provide recreational opportunities in the County.

Objective 4.2 Surplus lands owned by public entities can be used for park development

Goal 5.0 Park planning should be coordinated with new development.

Objective 5.1 As appropriate, the County should collaborate with developers to provide for the recreational needs of the future residents. The County should be open to accepting appropriate park and open space dedication in new subdivision plats.

Objective 5.2 Flood plains make ideal locations for open space recreational activities – the County should consider park and open space opportunities in the floodplain when approving new subdivisions and when contemplating buyouts for flood mitigation purposes.

Objective 5.3 Not all parkland is created equal – the County should develop a "Parkland Acceptance Policy" that identifies the criteria for accepting new parkland into the County system which considers both the long term maintenance burden on the County and the potential benefits to the wider community.

Goal 6.0 Parks and recreational planning should be incorporated into tourism and economic development efforts.

Objective 6.1 Parks and recreation facilities are economic development issues that affect a company or industry's locational decisions – the County should partner with organizations that will promote activities in the park and attract visitors, and clearly market all of its parks to the public.

Objective 6.2 Broadband development is critical to the economic resiliency of unincorporated Bastrop County. County parks should provide Wi-Fi connectivity to the public.

Objective 6.3 Bastrop County Parks should enhance and maintain public access to, and stewardship of, the Colorado River.

Goal 7.0 Parks and recreational programs must find ways to celebrate the variety of cultures within the community.

Objective 7.1 Parks need to be sensitive to the special contributions made by certain population groups in the county.

Objective 7.2 Special occasions or festivals that celebrate events in the County should be incorporated into park planning.

Goal 8.0 Bastrop County needs to put appropriate organizational mechanisms in place to ensure the long term sustainability of the County Parks system.

Objective 8.1 The Department of General Services should be re named "Department of Parks and General Services" to clearly identify its role within the maintenance and management of existing and future County parks.

Objective 8.2 Fund raising for parks and recreational programs needs to be an ongoing effort.

Objective 8.3 Volunteers are critical to the long term sustainability of the Parks system. Bastrop County should establish and support a network of volunteers in partnership with local nonprofits, and develop a "Park Host" program to assist in the maintenance and security of the park system.