

**TYLER 21 PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND LAKES ACTION PLAN**

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>WHAT</b>	<b>HOW</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>CITY STAFF ASSIGNED</b>	<b>TARGET TIMELINE</b>	<b>POTENTIAL RESOURCES</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
<i>Preserve open space corridors in Tyler for wildlife habitat, nature-based recreation, an attractive public realm, and a healthy environment.</i>	Create nature preserves and greenways in the floodplains of Tyler's major creeks and their tributaries.	Develop a master plan for a regional greenway program and implementation strategy.	MPO	Parks & Recreation Director and Planning & Zoning Director	2007-2008	MPO funding	A Regional Trail Plan is being developed through the MPO, which will examine greenways to a certain level as part of plan development.
		Explore establishment of a competitive funding program to provide matching funds to developers willing to provide public trail facilities on private or public land that meet the requirements of the greenway plan.	Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director and Planning & Zoning Director	2008-2011	Current staff time	No action to date.
	Enhance the "urban forest" by creating green corridors along streets and drainage ways throughout the city.	Fund and establish an urban forestry program within city government.	Mayor and City Council; Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director	2007-2008	New staff resources and current staff time; general funding	Initially established in 2007 and continues to grow. Installed landscaping beds on Cumberland, along with seven additional on SE Loop. Currently working with TxDOT and Engineering on Gentry Parkway and Northeast Loop.
		Create a City arborist/urban forester staff position or responsibility	Mayor and City Council; Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director	2007	New staff resources and current staff time; general funding	Position created in 2007 and is currently filled.
		Create and maintain a city tree planting plan for streets, drainage ways, medians, bicycle routes, pedestrian routes and other public places.	Staff designated by City Manager; Trees Committee	Parks & Recreation Director	2008 and ongoing	Current staff time	Although a formal plan is not yet in place, initial planting areas have been identified and planted as part of the City's annual tree planting program.
		Enroll Tyler in the Tree City USA Program sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation.	Mayor and City Council; Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director	2007 and ongoing	Current staff time; general funding	Application has been pending and undergoing rewrites. Currently awaiting upcoming Unified Development Code (UDC) amendments that should address tree care/maintenance on public property.

		Review and edit the list of preferred/acceptable street trees in the landscape ordinance for their suitability in producing shade and in surviving in harsh urban conditions in Tyler's climate.	Staff designated by City Manager; Trees Committee	Parks & Recreation Director and Planning & Zoning Director	2008 and ongoing	Current staff time	City Arborist has developed a list of preferred trees included in new Unified Development Code (UDC).
		Fund and execute the planting at least 150 3-inch dbh shade trees on major streets every year at an estimated cost of \$25,000.	Mayor and City Council; Staff designated by City Manager; Trees Committee	Parks & Recreation Director	2007 and ongoing	Current staff time	Program funding beginning in FY2007-08. So far, trees planted at Fun Forest & Oakgrove Parks, on Northeast corner of Sunnybrook and 155, and southeast corner of Gentry Parkway and Broadway.
		Amend the landscape ordinance to require the planting of street trees, where feasible and depending upon the type of tree, in road rights-of-way in new residential and commercial developments, when feasible.	Mayor and City Council; Planning & Zoning Commission; Joint Committee on Code Review; Staff designated by City Manager	Planning & Zoning Director	2007-2008	Current staff time; consulting services; general funding	Street trees allowed and encouraged as part of new Unified Development Code (UDC).
		Amend the landscape ordinance to provide incentives to preserve existing trees, avoid excessive clearing and identify tree save areas, when feasible.	Mayor and City Council; Planning & Zoning Commission; Joint Committee on Code Review; Staff designated by City Manager	Planning & Zoning Director	2007-2008	Current staff time; consulting services; general funding	Enhanced provisions adopted as part of new Unified Development Code (UDC).
		Amend the landscape ordinance to require planting of shade trees in surface parking lots to provide greater shade at maturity, when feasible.	Mayor and City Council; Planning & Zoning Commission; Joint Committee on Code Review; Staff designated by City Manager	City Planning & Zoning Director	2007-2008	Current staff time; consulting services; general funding	Enhanced provisions adopted as part of new Unified Development Code (UDC).
		Inventory and evaluate the city's drainageways for potential retrofitting with trees and plantings.	Staff designated by City Manager	Director of Public Works & Utilities, Development Services Engineer and City Engineer.	2008-2011 and ongoing	Current staff time	No action to date.
	Consider establishing a city tree and plant nursery.	Determine the feasibility of establishing a plant nursery to provide trees and other plants for public beautification using a cost-benefit analysis (versus contracting or purchasing for other sources).	Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director	2010-2011 and ongoing	Current staff time	No action to date beyond preliminary staff discussions.

		Identify city-owned land for a potential nursery and city or contractor operation.	Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director	2010-2011 and ongoing	Current staff time	Pending feasibility analysis, two potential areas have been identified as possible sites (Lindsey Park and Northside Park).
	Explore alternative open space conservation strategies, particularly for natural areas.	Seek assistance from state and nonprofit land conservation groups to give presentations and provide materials on strategies such as conservation easements, purchase of development rights and transfer of development rights.	Staff designated by City Manager	City Parks & Recreation Director and Planning & Zoning Director	2010-2011 and ongoing	Current staff time; assistance from other agencies	Initial discussions held with Trust for Public Land to aid in the identification of possible sites.
		Identify land ownership where regional trails and greenways are proposed and propose voluntary open space conservation strategies.	Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director and Planning & Zoning Director	2010-2011 and ongoing	Current staff time	Being examined as part of Regional Trail Plan.
<i>Provide a balanced park and open space system that allows for easy access and enjoyment by all citizens of Tyler.</i>	Pursue a long-term goal of a park within walking distance of every Tyler residence.	Be alert to opportunities for neighborhood park development in underserved areas and consider acquisition.	Mayor and City Council; Parks & Recreation Board; Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director, Neighborhood Services Director and Redevelopment Specialist	2008 and ongoing	Current staff time; general funding; private funding	Will be examined as part of Parks Master Plan, which is funded in FY2008-09.
	Establish planning strategies, practices and ordinances to ensure voluntary provision for parks as new development occurs.	Create an Open Space Trust fund to be capitalized by rollback funds and seek other potential funding sources such as municipal and developer contributions.	Mayor and City Council; Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director	2008-2011 and ongoing	Current staff time; general funding; private funding	No action, not agreed to with UDC update.
		Request developers/builders to annually contribute funds on a voluntary basis to the Open Space Trust Fund for creation of public open space.	Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director	2008-2011 and ongoing	Current staff time	No action to date.
		Involve residents at the beginning of the design process, to discuss local recreation and park needs, and at several points during the design process, when feasible.	Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director and Planning & Zoning Director	2008 and ongoing	Current staff time	Public involvement will be essential to the Parks Master Planning process. In the meantime, residents consulted on potential improvements on a park by park basis.

	Provide opportunities for both passive and active use of parks and recreation areas.	Design all parks with active uses such as athletic fields or courts as well as provide some passive space.	Mayor and City Council; Parks & Recreation Board; Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director	2008 and ongoing	Current staff time; consulting services; general funding; private funding	Currently all Parks have active and passive uses to some degree. No new parks have been constructed.
		Continue to expand upon Tyler's current trial system, beginning with Phase II of the Rose Rudman Trial.	Mayor and City Council; TxDOT; Staff designated by the City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director and City Engineer	2007 and ongoing	General funding; TxDOT funding	Scheduled for completion spring 2009.
	Review surplus City-owned land for park and open space use before disposition by sale or other means.	Review disposition properties for location in underserved areas; potential addition to a regional park network; potential for a needed type of park or recreation facility.	Mayor and City Council; Parks & Recreation Board; Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director, Neighborhood Services Director and Redevelopment Specialist	2008 and ongoing	Current staff time; general funding	City Attorney's office submits disposition properties to Parks Dept. for review.
	Explore the potential to create a horticulture center or botanical garden on the parking lot and fairgrounds site adjacent to the Rose Garden.	Explore potential partnerships with nonprofit or for-profit garden and horticulture groups for creation of a major regional center with botanical gardens, expanded model gardens, and an environmental education center focused on the East Texas environment.	Mayor and City Council; Park and Recreation Board; Staff designated by City Manager; Master Gardeners; Educational and research institutions	Parks & Recreation Director	2010-2011	Current staff time	No action to date. Pending future relocation of East Texas State Fair.
		Develop a site master plan including alternatives for expanded horticulture uses while accommodating parking and circulation for the stadium and athletic fields.	Mayor and City Council; Staff designated by City Manager; TISD staff	Parks & Recreation Director and City Engineer	2012	Current staff time; consulting services; general funding	No action to date. Pending future relocation of East Texas State Fair and funding
	Develop LeGrand Gardens as the world's first <i>Earthkind</i> Botanical Garden that will accommodate special activities.	Commission a master plan.	Mayor and City Council; Keep Tyler Beautiful Board; Staff designated by City Manager	City Manager and Solid Waste Director	2007	Current staff time; consulting services; general funding; private funding	Master Plan completed in FY2007-08.
		Achieve <i>Earthkind</i> official designation.	Keep Tyler Beautiful Board; Staff designated by City Manager	City Manager and Parks & Recreation Director	2007	Current staff time	Designation granted in FY2007-08.
		Seek out private sponsorships/donations and host fundraising events to finance garden and facility development.	Keep Tyler Beautiful Board; Staff designated by City Manager	Solid Waste Director and Parks & Recreation Director	2007 and ongoing	Current staff time; private funding	On going. As first phase of development, Chamblee Rose Garden being largely funded by private donations.

		Begin installation of master plan features and specialty gardens through public-private funding.	City Council; Keep Tyler Beautiful Board; Private funding sponsors; Staff designated by City Manager	Solid Waste Director and Parks & Recreation Director	2008	Current staff time; consulting services; general funding; private funding	Construction of Chamblee Rose Garden commenced in Dec., 2008. Completion anticipated March, 2009.
<i>Provide recreation programs and opportunities for children, youth, adults and senior citizens throughout the city.</i>	Continue to monitor and upgrade recreational elements and facilities at existing parks to ensure compliance with current safety standards and current recreational trends.	Continue conducting annual assessments of the city's parks and recreation facilities and replace facilities with improved equipment, implement ADA standards, and provide equipment for handicapped users.	Mayor and City Council; Parks & Recreation Board; Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director	2007 and ongoing	Current staff time; general funding	Routine inspection of parks and playgrounds conducted on a regular basis.
		Ensure full handicap accessibility, including routes to accessible facilities, when installing ADA upgrades.	Mayor and City Council; Parks & Recreation Board; Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director	2007 and ongoing	Current staff time; general funding	All parks meet basic ADA requirements. Any future improvements are required to meet current state requirements.
	Explore the potential or full partial public access to private park and recreation facilities.	Consider arrangements with the managers of private parks and recreational facilities in which the City could allow for complete public access or access for programs in return for sharing maintenance and/or program costs.	Mayor and City Council; Parks & Recreation Board; Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director	2009-2011	Current staff time; general funding	To be explored as part of Northchase Development.
	Explore the potential for joint park and recreation development, maintenance and programming with Tyler I.S.D. and other school districts, as appropriate.	Continue dialogue with Tyler I.S.D. and other school districts for the provision of recreational opportunities.	Mayor and City Council; Parks & Recreation Board; Staff designated by City Manager	City Manager and Parks & Recreation Director	2008 and ongoing	Current staff time; general funding	Currently working on potential joint park/school concepts for Griffin and Dixie Schools.
		Work closely with Tyler I.S.D. and other school districts to monitor future expansion plans so the city and the school district can jointly develop future recreational facilities.	Mayor and City Council; Parks & Recreation Board; Staff designated by City Manager	City Manager and Parks & Recreation Director	2008 and ongoing	Current staff time; general funding	Staff is currently working with TISD on Griffin and Dixie school sites.
		Develop a joint programming effort to maximize the use and enjoyment of both City and public school facilities.	Mayor and City Council; Parks & Recreation Board; Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director	2009-2011	Current staff time; general funding	Currently TISD is operating under a secure campus policy which is hindering this concept.

	Survey residents regularly to monitor needs, interests, and satisfaction with the park system.	Survey program users after program completion with a common survey instrument for all programs.	Mayor and City Council; Parks & Recreation Board; Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director	2009-and every other year thereafter	Current staff time; consultant services; general funding	Parks Master Plan will be developed in 2009 and include a citizen survey element.
	Continue to monitor use of City facilities by private groups and their contribution to upkeep of these facilities.	Allow private groups to use park facilities such as amphitheatres, pavilions, ball fields, etc. provided the use does not conflict with a scheduled City event or completely monopolize facilities, shutting out the public at large.	Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director	2007 and ongoing	Current staff time	Private groups can utilize any facility not reserved. Special event applications required to reduce scheduling or use conflicts.
		Evaluate fees on a regular basis to make sure that private groups contribute towards the maintenance and repair of facilities they use regularly.	Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director	2007 and ongoing	Current staff time	Ongoing. Currently reviewing fees for FY2009-10.
	Partner with private interests for the promotion of a Tyler First Tee program at Woldert Park.	The First Tee of Tyler has been formed and land has been donated adjacent to Woldert Park. This land, together with land from the existing Woldert Park, is intended to be the home for this new sports program.	Private/community partners	City Manager, Parks & Recreation Director and Redevelopment Specialist	2007 and ongoing	Current staff time	Lease of property executed between Tyler Youth Golf Foundation (First Tee of Tyler) and City. Additional property involving Northchase Development also under consideration. Official First Tee Chapter designation awaiting approval of application already submitted.
	Continue annual review and updating of the Parks and Open Space Plan.	Provide survey results and coordinate with other departments on potential park land expansion to inform the Parks Board in its annual update.	Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director	2007 and ongoing	Current staff time	New Master Plan will replace 1998 plan.
<i>Protect and preserve Lake Tyler, Lake Tyler East and Bellwood Lake.</i>	Continue giving highest priority to water quality protection.	Keep protection of water quality first priority, since the lakes are the city's drinking water supply.	Staff designated by City Manager	Director of Public Works & Utilities	2007 and ongoing	Current staff time	Ongoing; continue inspections for: boathouse plumbing, aerobic systems, approval for construction, etc.; continue to monitor: water quality through sampling.

	Continue to review compliance with the existing lease requirements for both residential and commercial leases and take enforcement action in the case of noncompliance.	Enforce lease terms.	Staff designated by City Manager	Director of Public Works & Utilities and City Attorney	2008 and ongoing	Current staff time	Ongoing, but "fresh" examination of all leases will be conducted in response to Lake Tyler Roundtable input.
	Review and revise maximum parking limits for camping and R.V. facilities.	Ensure that the lease language contains aesthetic controls and requires best practices to control nonpoint source pollution and proper waste disposal.	Staff designated by City Manager	Director of Public Works & Utilities	2008 and ongoing	Current staff time	"Fresh" examination of all leases will be conducted in response to Lake Tyler Roundtable input.
	Prohibit further subdivision of lease lots on City-owned property.	Eliminate the designation of "Club Lot" (subdividable lots) so that all lots fall under the same development criteria.	Mayor and City Council; Staff designated by City Manager	Director of Public Works & Utilities and City Attorney	2008 and ongoing	Current staff time	Ongoing, but may need authority by Ordinance. Currently, not likely to approve by policy.
	Designate properties which do not currently have leases as Greenbelt Properties.	Preserve the existing public owned property around the lakes for public purposes, protection of water supply, and public recreation.	Mayor and City Council; Staff designated by City Manager	Director of Public Works & Utilities	2008 and ongoing	Current staff time	Ongoing. Currently deny requests for additional leasehold property or purchase property as an unwritten policy. May need authority by Ordinance.
		Designate remaining City-owned properties as Greenbelt Properties to eliminate the potential for future private development while allowing for low-impact, nature-based recreation with a minimum of support facilities.	Mayor and City Council; Staff designated by City Manager	Director of Public Works & Utilities	2008 and ongoing	Current staff time	Ongoing. Existing undeveloped properties not under lease have been maintained in natural state for many years as a matter of practice and unwritten policy to preserve water quality.
	Develop a trail system around Lake Tyler.	Fund the design a nature trail from the marina to Hill Creek Recreation Area on the City-owned greenbelt properties.	Mayor and City Council; Staff designated by City Manager	Director of Public Works & Utilities	2008 and ongoing	Current staff time; consulting services; utility funding	No action to date.
		Fund and construct the trail.	Mayor and City Council; Staff designated by City Manager; Volunteers	Director of Public Works & Utilities	2012-2013	Current staff time; consulting services; utility funding; volunteer time	No action to date.

	Continue to improve recreational facilities at existing sites.	Fund and install improvements to facilities to serve more users, more effectively while minimizing impacts on the land and the water.	Mayor and City Council; Staff designated by City Manager	Director of Public Works & Utilities	2012 and ongoing	Current staff time; utility funding	Will make improvements to existing facilities regularly as conditions merit (i.e. boat ramps, retaining walls, tables, trees, etc.) Need input on additional improvements & facilities via Lake Tyler Roundtable and others.
		Maintain facility standards and expectations held of other City of Tyler recreation sites, including signage.	Staff designated by City Manager	Director of Public Works & Utilities	2012 and ongoing	Current staff time; utility funding	Need input from Lake Tyler Roundtable and others on desired signage. Can coordinate with TxDOT & County, where applicable for installation.
	Evaluate the location, performance, and appearance of the existing R.V. facility and the need for such a facility.	Evaluate R.V. facility operation for its contributions to the recreational objectives of the lakes, taking into account the housing needs of the people who live there now.	Staff designated by City Manager	Director of Public Works & Utilities	2012-2015	Current staff time; utility funding	Currently evaluating services provided or offered, amenities, hours of operation, etc. as follow up to Lake Tyler Roundtable discussions and input during Tyler 21 plan development.
	Explore all options for obtaining resources and for developing partnerships with the Lake Tyler lease holders and others to improve amenities and public access at Lake Tyler.		Staff designated by City Manager	City Manager and Director or Public Works & Utilities	2010	Current staff time; private funding	Mayor has formed Lake Tyler Roundtable, which has met twice and is chaired by a Council member. This venue will be used to continue to explore opportunities and potential partnerships.
	Consider annexing a corridor to the lakes and all of the property around the lakes.	Perform a cost-benefit study for annexing all City-owned property around Lake Tyler into the corporate limits of Tyler.	Staff designated by City Manager	Director of Planning & Zoning	2012-2015	Current staff time; consulting services	No action to date. Per Tyler 21, other areas of the ETJ are a higher priority for annexation.
	Protect water quality and public access at Lake Tyler East	Continue to purchase undeveloped land around Lake Tyler East as it becomes available.	Mayor and City Council; Staff designated by City Manager	Director of Public Works & Utilities	2008 and ongoing	Current staff time; utility funding	Ongoing. Need to develop inventory on undeveloped land & identify owners.
		Establish maximum impervious cover standards around the lake to ensure water quality.	Mayor and City Council; Staff designated by City Manager	Director of Public Works & Utilities	2012-2015	Current staff time; consulting services	No action to date.
		Grant access to the lake only to properties which comply with the standards.	Mayor and City Council; Staff designated by City Manager	Director of Public Works & Utilities	2012-2015	Current staff time	No action to date.

	Ensure continued protection of the water source and natural environment.	Review and amend any lease agreements or other use agreements.	Mayor and City Council; Staff designated by City Manager	Director of Public Works & Utilities and City Attorney	2012 and ongoing	Current staff time	No action to date, although leases are reviewed upon renewal on a case by case basis.
		Continue to monitor motorized use and how it impacts water quality.	Staff designated by City Manager	Director of Public Works & Utilities	2007	Current staff time	Currently being performed, although should develop sampling protocol for hydrocarbons to be conducted during high use & low use times.
	Develop a conceptual site master plan for the City-owned property north of Bellwood Lake.	Ensure that the City has identified access points, protection of natural open space, lake amenities, etc. prior to surrounding properties being developed.	Staff designated by City Manager	Director of Public Works & Utilities	2008	Current staff time; consulting services	Working with planning consultants and stakeholders to develop Lake Bellwood Master Plan. Plan nearing completion and will be available 2009.
		Work with property owners north of Bellwood Lake on a cohesive development plan for the entire area.	Staff designated by City Manager	Director of Public Works & Utilities	2007-2009	Current staff time	Working with planning consultants and stakeholders to develop master plan for Bellwood Lake.
	Consider annexing City-owned property on the north side of Bellwood Lake.	Perform a cost-benefit study to determine the feasibility of annexing this property.	Staff designated by City Manager	Director of Planning & Zoning	2008	Current staff time	Annexation of the Lake and City property around the North side of the Lake has been completed.
	Manage development and recreational activities in and around sensitive areas of the lakes to minimize adverse effects on water quality and valuable ecosystems.	Prohibit the construction of boat houses and piers on Bellwood Lake.	Staff designated by City Manager	Director of Public Works & Utilities	2007 and ongoing	Current staff time	Ongoing. Currently, piers are permitted on common lot lines per existing Lake Use Agreement with Cascades to minimize number of piers.
		Limit water skiing in order to maintain a healthy lake environment.	Staff designated by City Manager	Director of Public Works & Utilities	2007 and ongoing	Current staff time	Limited skiing available to only one lessee, and may be eliminated as Lake continues to develop.
	Develop public trails on the lake.	Fund and further develop public trails at Bellwood Lake from the Cascades Trail up through the City-owned property on the north side of the lake to connect with a trail on adjoining property, and connect the Cascades Trail with nearby Lindsey Park property.	Mayor and City Council; Parks & Recreation Board; Private stakeholders; Staff designated by City Manager	Director of Public Works & Utilities	2012-2017	Current staff time; consulting services; utility funding; private funding	Developing master plan for Bellwood Lake property to identify trail locations.

<i>Be a good steward of parks and public spaces.</i>	Maintain all parks and public spaces to the same high standard.	Develop a maintenance checklist for park land and park facilities with easily understood criteria for rating conditions and perform an evaluation of every park on a regular schedule.	Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director	2007 and ongoing	Current staff time	Maintenance checklists now used, but currently modifying and enhancing maintenance plans. All parks are mowed on same scheduled basis.
		Develop maintenance standards so that employees know what is expected.	Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director	2007 and ongoing	Current staff time	General maintenance standards are in place, but employees are being trained to identify areas of concern. Maintenance checklists are also being modified to enhance maintenance plans.
		Create a maintenance plan that prioritizes current needs and provides for catching up on maintenance backlogs.	Staff designated by City Manager	Parks & Recreation Director	2007 and ongoing	Current staff time	Will be examined as part of Parks Master Plan, which is funded in FY2008-09.