

CITY OF PORT ARANSAS

Parks and Open Space Master Plan
June 16, 2005



LAND
DESIGN
PARTNERS

**City of Port Aransas
Parks and Open Space Master Plan
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A. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The City of Port Aransas, Texas partnered with Land Design Partners to prepare the City of Port Aransas Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. The plan was developed between January 2005 and May 2005 by city personnel and staff from Land Design Partners and the plan reflects a range of park issues and planning within the community of Port Aransas.

Mayor

Georgia Neblett

City Council

Mayor Pro-tem - Mark Grosse

Council Member - William "Bill" Smith

Council Member - Mike Hall

Council Member - John "Bubba" Jensen

Council Member - Beverly Charles

Council Member - Maggie Guscott

Parks and Recreation Board

Charlie Zahn

John Fucik

Don Anz

Scott Holt

Debbie Kalke

Sharon Grumbles

City of Port Aransas

Michael Kovacs, City Manager

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Land Design Partners

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B. METHODOLOGY AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the development of this Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, the City of Port Aransas wanted to ensure that the parks, leisure, and recreational needs of its residents and visitors to the City were met with quality and excellence.

The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department requires that a new Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan be developed every five years, adopted by the City, and filed with TPWD in order for the City to participate in the Outdoor Recreational Grant Program scoring. With this knowledge, the City identified the need to develop a Citywide Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan specific to its residents and visitors to the City of Port Aransas.

The City of Port Aransas contracted with Land Design Partners to assist in the planning and formulation of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan in January of 2005.

In January and February of 2005, the City developed and distributed a City of Port Aransas Parks and Recreation Survey to identify park needs and priorities for park facilities and recreation programs. Over 370 survey responses were received in response to this mail out.

Staff from Land Design Partners met with the City of Port Aransas Parks and Recreation Board and City staff to establish the overall goals and

objectives for planning the future direction of the parks and open space system.

The design team then conducted a physical inventory of the entire park system for the City of Port Aransas. This inventory included acreage identification, classifying parks, and listing existing facilities located in the individual parks.

Upon conclusion of this inventory, acreage and facility standards were developed with the Parks and Recreation Board to guide the City in future planning and development. The City adapted their own park standards from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) standards to more accurately fit the context and needs of the City of Port Aransas. The goal of the City is to continue to provide this same level of excellence to its residents as the population of the City continues to grow. With this standard, acreage and facility guidelines were developed for projected population bases for the calendar years of 2010 and 2015.

The needs assessment survey results were also tabulated and listed in order of high, moderate, and low priorities for both indoor and outdoor recreational facilities. These priorities were derived from the weighted input and survey responses from the general public, along with weighted input from the Parks and Recreation staff, the Port Aransas Parks and Recreation Board and the City Manager. The design team

developed recommendations for and expenditure analysis of these park improvement priorities and included a 10-year implementation plan to outline how the priorities may be accomplished.

Land Design Partners provided the Parks and Recreation Board with copies of

the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. On June 7, 2005, the plan was approved by the board. The master plan is to be forwarded to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for its review and approval upon official adoption of the plan by City Council.



C. INTRODUCTION

1. Port Aransas in Context⁴

a. Location

Port Aransas is located along the Gulf of Mexico approximately 25 miles north of Corpus Christi, situated at the northern tip of Mustang Island.

b. Proximity to Major Metros

(Distance in Miles)

Corpus Christi	25
San Antonio	150

c. Nearby Cities

(Distance in Miles)

Aransas Pass	6.9
Ingleside	9.9
Rockport	14.2
Gregory	16.5
Fulton	16.8

d. Normal climate around Port Aransas, Texas

Based on data reported by main weather stations

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Days with precip.	8	7	5	5	6	6	5	6	9	7	6	7
Wind speed (mph)	12.0	12.9	14.0	14.3	12.8	11.7	11.5	11.0	10.4	10.4	11.7	11.6
Morning humidity (%)	87	87	87	89	92	93	93	92	90	89	87	86
Afternoon humidity (%)	70	68	65	66	70	67	62	62	65	63	66	68
Sunshine (%)	44	49	54	56	59	72	80	76	68	67	54	43
Days clear of clouds	7	7	7	6	5	9	11	11	10	12	9	8
Partly cloudy days	7	6	8	9	12	14	14	13	12	10	9	6
Cloudy days	17	15	16	15	13	7	6	7	8	8	12	17
Snowfall (in)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: 4: www.city-data.com

e. Geography

Port Aransas is set at 6 feet above Sea Level. With its proximity to the ocean, this beach town is generally flat and has sandy soils. Much of the marshland in this area, though, consists of very dark soils with clay subsoil.

f. Vegetation

Vegetation in Port Aransas includes many grasses, such as cord and salt grasses, as well as other species native to the coastal plains. Vegetation includes oak, prickly pear, and mesquite.

g. Port Aransas Community Events

Like many beach towns, Port A has many events and activities for residents and tourists to enjoy, including fishing, surfing, dolphin watching, and horseback riding. Although most of these activities are seasonal, events at the Community Theater and programs hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department are scheduled all year long.

h. Port Aransas History ⁵

The first inhabitants of Port Aransas were the Karankawa Indians. In 1528, a Spanish explorer named Cabeza de Vaca discovered this island. When the Spaniards arrived they brought many wild horses with them, and in turn, this small island became known as Mustang Island.

As the island expanded and the population and commerce began to grow, new maps and charts were updated. Around 1833, maps began to note Sand Point. This point was located at the northern tip of Mustang Island, and this point would soon become known as Port Aransas.

During the 1850s, large ships began carrying produce and goods between Mustang Island and New Orleans.

In the late 1890's, the fishing industry began to increase. As a result,

Source: 5: tsha.utexas.edu

Mustang Island temporarily changed its name to Tarpon, due to the large number of these silver-scaled fish caught in its native waters.

In 1910, Port Aransas was officially established and it continued to grow economically with the Sea Turtle industry. Soon the town was exporting turtles up to 500 pounds.

2. City of Port Aransas Goals and Objectives

The current goals and objectives for the City of Port Aransas Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan as stated below were developed by the City of Port Aransas Parks and Recreation Board at the January 19, 2005 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting. The Board reviewed the Mission, Visions, and Goals and Objectives that had been adopted by the previous Parks Board during the development of the Parks Master Plan for 2001-2006. The current board clarified the future direction of the Parks and Recreation Department in Port Aransas and revised the following Mission, Visions, and Goals and Objectives (as stated below) as they apply to Port Aransas today.

Mission of the Port Aransas Parks and Recreation Department:

“To enhance the City’s recreational resources and provide the environment wherein a wide variety of services, facilities, and leisure activities can enrich the lives of residents, visitors, and guests of Port Aransas.”

The Vision Statement of the Port Aransas Parks and Recreation Department

“To enrich the lives of all who spend time in Port Aransas through programs and activities that capture and cultivate the character and diversity of the community.”

The Goals of the Port Aransas Parks and Recreation Department

- To provide the environment which encourages a wide variety of leisure activities.
- To enhance the experience of residents and guests in the area of parks and recreation.

- To provide a variety of leisure activities for individual and group participation and enjoyment.
- To develop the facilities to support these activities.
- To encourage partnership with other entities in the development of facilities and programs for the City's Parks and Recreation Department.
- To empower employees and the community to contribute talents and expertise for the benefit of all.
- To exercise sound judgment in the management of resources, finances, and personnel.
- To better communicate the wide variety of park services, facilities, and programs that the City of Port Aransas Department of Parks and Recreation offers residents and visitors.



D. INVENTORY

In order to project the future park and recreation needs of the City, an accurate inventory assessment of existing park lands has been documented. For purposes of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan, the inventory of park lands for the City of Port Aransas is divided into the following five categories:

Existing Developed Park Land

This category includes all park facilities that are recognized as parks by the City of Port Aransas and have a developed park infrastructure.

Undeveloped Land Owned by the City of Port Aransas

The City of Port Aransas owns some areas of land that are not designated as park land or developed as parks but that are currently used as natural open space areas.

Existing Park and Recreation Facilities Financed or Maintained by the City

Facilities in this category are owned by private entities or other governmental agencies and the City helps finance or maintain them.

Joint Use Facilities with other governmental or quasi-governmental entities

The local Independent School District provides park and recreation amenities on school grounds. Although they are not owned, operated or maintained by the City of Port Aransas, these facilities do provide recreation outlets for the residents and guests of Port Aransas and should be noted.

Land that is Leased by the City for Future Park / Preserve Use

This category includes land that is leased by the City of Port Aransas from other private or public entities for recreation use or open space preservation purposes.

ROBERTS POINT PARK



LOCATION	North of J.C. Barr Avenue
ACREAGE	49.5 Acres
CURRENT PARK CLASSIFICATION	Community
RECOMMENDED PARK CLASSIFICATION	Community
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	Amphitheater Soccer Basketball Benches Pavilions Picnic Tables Shuffleboard Volleyball Open Space J.P. Luby Fishing Pier



COMMUNITY PARK



LOCATION	Clark Parkway
ACREAGE	19.32 Acres
CURRENT PARK CLASSIFICATION	Community
RECOMMENDED PARK CLASSIFICATION	Community
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	Baseball Basketball Benches Restroom / Concession Building Exercise Stations Picnic Tables Playground Pool Skate Park Trail



ANCEL BRUNDRETT FISHING PIER



LOCATION	North End of Station Street
ACREAGE	.30 Acres
CURRENT PARK CLASSIFICATION	Natural Resource Park
RECOMMENDED PARK CLASSIFICATION	Natural Resource Park
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	Fishing Pier

HIGHWAY 361 WETLANDS OVERLOOK



LOCATION	State Highway 361 (south of Cutoff Road)
ACREAGE	.22 Acres
CURRENT PARK CLASSIFICATION	Natural Resource Park
RECOMMENDED PARK CLASSIFICATION	Natural Resource Park
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	Observation Deck / Board Walk

CITY MARINA



LOCATION	Southside of J.C. Barr Ave
ACREAGE	10.1 Acres
CURRENT PARK CLASSIFICATION	Special Use Park
RECOMMENDED PARK CLASSIFICATION	Special Use Park
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	4 Public boat ramps 144 boat slips 26 transient boat slips 34 Boatman's Association slips 18 Commercial boat slips

LEONABELLE TURNBULL BIRDING CENTER



LOCATION	South end of Ross Avenue
ACREAGE	2.3 Acres
CURRENT PARK CLASSIFICATION	Natural Resource
RECOMMENDED PARK CLASSIFICATION	Natural Resource
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	Boardwalk Viewing Tower

PORT ARANSAS BEACH



LOCATION	Along the Gulf of Mexico
ACREAGE	150 Acres
CURRENT PARK CLASSIFICATION	Natural Resource
RECOMMENDED PARK CLASSIFICATION	Natural Resource
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	

CITY FISHING PIER (CHARLIE'S PASTURE)



LOCATION	At the end of Port Street
ACREAGE	.2 Acres
CURRENT PARK CLASSIFICATION	Special Use Park
RECOMMENDED PARK CLASSIFICATION	Special Use Park
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	Fishing Pier

PARADISE POND



LOCATION	400 Cutoff Road
ACREAGE	2.0 Acres
CURRENT PARK CLASSIFICATION	Natural Resource Park
RECOMMENDED PARK CLASSIFICATION	Natural Resource Park
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES	Freshwater Pond Boardwalk Observation Deck Interpretive Signage Butterfly Garden

City of Port Aransas Recreational Facilities

Park Facility Name	Location	Acres	Park Classification	Amphitheater	Auditorium	Baseball Fields	Basketball Courts	BBQ Grills	Benches	Boat Ramp	Bocce Court	Concession Building	Disc Golf	Education Station	Exercise Stations	Fishing / Observ. Deck	Football Fields	Grilling Stations	Gymnasium	Meeting Rooms	Multi-Purpose Fields	Pavilion	Picnic Tables	Playground	Racquetball Court	RV Camping	Pool	Senior Center	Shuffleboard	Skate Park	Soccer Fields	Softball Fields	Tetherball	Tennis	Trails (Miles)	Volleyball	Water Play Opportunities
Roberts Point Park	North of J.C. Barr Avenue	49.50	C	1		1	1	2	30													1	13	3					4		1						1
Community Park	Clark Parkway	19.32	C			2	1		10			1			1								5	1			1			1	1					1.10	1
Wetland Overlook	State Highway 361	0.22	NR													1																					
Ancel Brundrett Fishing Pier	North end of Station Street	0.30	NR													1																					
City Marina	South of J.C. Barr Avenue	10.10	SP														2					1	27														
Port Aransas Beach	Along Gulf of Mexico	150.00	NR																																		
Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center	South end of Ross Avenue	2.30	NR						7							1							1														
City Fishing Pier	End of Port Street	0.20	NR													1																					
Paradise Pond	Cutoff Road	2.00	NR						9							1																					
Total		233.94		1	0	3	2	2	56	0	0	1	0		1	5	0	2	0	0	0	2	46	4	0	0	1	0		1	2	0	0	0	1.1	2	0

2. Undeveloped Land Owned by the City of Port Aransas

Description of Land	Size
Designated for Future Marina	Approx. 67 Acres
Misc. Smaller properties around the City	TBD

3. Existing Park and Recreation Facilities Leased, Financed or Maintained by the City

Description of Land	Address	Size	Description
Jerry McDonald Field*	Intersection of Alister Street and W. Avenue C	Approx. 3 acres	(1) Baseball Field; owned by Presbyterian Church and leased to the Port Aransas Softball League
City Cemetery	Royal Palm Avenue	Approx. .5 Acres	Cemetery Plots

* The City of Port Aransas maintains the restroom/concession stand building and mows the playing field.

4. Port Aransas Independent School District and County Joint Use Facilities

Name of School	Address	Type of School	Recreational Facilities at School
H.G. Olsen Elementary School	100 Station Street	Elementary Pre K - 5	Playground Covered play area
Brundrett Middle School	100 Station Street	Middle School Grades 6-8	Basketball court
Port Aransas High School	100 Station Street	High School Grades 9-12	Soccer Field 1/4 mile oval track (8) Tennis Courts

Port Aransas ISD currently leases the Community Park Baseball Field for High School baseball practices (off-season and in-season) and games. As part of the PAISD physical education curriculum, the Parks and Recreation Department is providing facility and staff for teaching swim lessons for children in 5th, 7th and 8th grades at the Community Pool.

The Parks and Recreation Department operates the After School Latchkey program and PA Youth Council Day Camp (6 weeks in June, July and August) is

co-sponsored by the City of Port Aransas Parks and Recreation Department and the Port Aransas Youth Council.

Nueces County Regional Park is also utilized by citizens of Port Aransas. It is located South of the University of Texas Science Institute and serves both active and passive recreational needs.

5. Land that is Leased by the City for Park / Preserve Use

The City of Port Aransas has a 30-year lease for 1089-acres from the Texas General Land Office with a 20-year extension option. The City of Port Aransas is currently developing a plan to create a Nature Preserve with both active and passive recreation on these acres and other acquired properties.

Note: Mustang Island is comprised of approximately 6,431 acres and the City of Port Aransas shares jurisdiction of these acres with the U.S. Government (Coast Guard Station), Texas General Land Office, University of Texas (Marine Science Institute), Nueces County, and the City of Corpus Christi.

6. City of Port Aransas Sponsored Recreational Programs

The City sponsors a wide variety of recreational programs throughout the calendar year under the direction of the Parks and Recreation Department, including:

Community Pool Programs

Program	Days	Hours	Duration	Season of Program Operation
Water Exercise Days	Tues.- Friday	8:15 & 9:30 am	90 days	Winter
Water Exercise Days	Mon.- Friday	8:15am & 6:30 pm	90 days	Summer
Open Swim / Lap Time	Tues.- Friday Sat. / Sun.	7 am – 6 pm 12 noon – 6 pm	143 days	Winter
Open Swim / Lap Time	Tues.- Friday Sat. / Sun.	7 am – 6 pm 12 noon – 6 pm	158 days	Summer
Synchronized Swim	Tues. / Thursday		28 days	Winter
Synchronized Swim	Tues. / Thursday		24 days	Summer
Lifeguard Class	Sundays		5 days	

Community Programs

Program	Days	Hours	Duration
Latch Key	Mon.- Friday	3 – 6 pm	180 days
Beachwalks	4 th Friday	9 am	11 days
Birding Tours	Wednesdays	9 am	40 days
Beach Guard Supervision	Spring Break		23 days

Summer Programs

Program	Days	Hours	Duration
Open Gym	Mon.- Friday	3 – 6 pm	35 days
Chess Club	Monday		10 days
Beach Guard Supervision	Memorial Day thru Labor Day	12noon – 5pm	102 days

Collaborative Programs (with Parks and Recreation Assistance)

Program	Days	Hours	Duration
PAYC Camp	Mon.- Friday	9 am – 5pm	30 days
PAYC Swim Lessons	Tues.-Friday	9:40 am – 10:30 am	8 days
PAYC Evening Swim Lessons		6:30 pm	8 days
TIDE Swim Team	Wednesday	6:15 pm	27 days
USS Swim Team			28 days
Native American Learning Circles			3 days
Boy Scout Swim Test	Sunday (9/28)	5-6 pm	1 day
SCUBA checkouts or classes			8 days

Collaborative Programs (without Parks and Recreation Assistance)

Program	Hours
Art Intensive	10 am – 12n
PAYSL Camp	8:30– 10:30 am

In 2003-2004, the City of Port Aransas Parks and Recreation Department offered activities and special events (outlined below) as part of its commitment to a better quality of life for residents and visitors in Port Aransas.

Month	Special Events or Activities
January	2004 Meander
	Windows of Wisdom & Wit
	For your Health lecture Beachology
February	Groundhog Day Shadow Stroll
	Kayaking with Capt. Tarkington
	For Your Info Lecture Whooping Crane Festival
March	Windows of Wisdom & Wit
	City Wide Garage Sale w/ KPAB
April	Sandfest maze making
	Sunset Sounds
	Beach Cleanup & Plant Swap w/ KPAB Sidewalk Art Chalk Contest
May	Swim Lessons for 5th graders
	Mother's Day - Mom swims free
	Sunset Sounds
	Splash day (1/2 price @ pool)
June	All about Stamps
	Swim Instructor class
	Flower pressing
	Paper making
	Sunset Sounds
	Sand Castles
	Double Dip night @ pool
	Catamaran Cruise
	Red Crayon Class for < 6 yr olds
	Bird spas
	Soap making
	Beach Towel Tie-dye
	Father's Day - Dad swims free
	Little Chefs Cooking Class
	Catamaran Cruise
	Windchimes
	Print making
Camp Fishing Field trip	
Beach Challenge	
Little Chefs Cooking Class	

	Catamaran Cruise
	Red Crayon Class for < 6 yr olds
	Papier Mache
July	Crayon shirts
	Flag making
	Sunset Sounds
	Rain Stick Making
	Field Challenge
	Red Crayon Class for < 6 yr olds
	Garden Stones
	Necklaces
	Luau Night @ Pool
	Kaleidoscopes
	Windsocks
	Sand Casting with plaster
	Red Crayon Class for < 6 yr olds
	Terrarium
	Foam Mosaics
	Pool Challenge
August	Red Crayon Class for < 6 yr olds
	Puppet making
	Clock making
	Kick the can Ice Cream
	Dog Days @ Pool
	Sunset Sounds
September	Splash day (1/2 price @ pool)
	Sunset Sounds
October	Sunset Sounds
November	Plant Swap with KPAB
	Windows of Wisdom & Wit
December	Santa Calling (PreK & Kg)
	Holiday Forest set-up
	Holiday Forest Pot Luck dinner
	Windows of Wisdom & Wit
	Holiday Forest display
	Santa Night at Holiday Forest

7. Non-City sponsored Athletic Leagues

Currently there are four non-City sponsored athletic leagues. They include:

- Port Aransas Youth Soccer League,
- Port Aransas Little League
- Port Aransas Adult Volleyball League
- Port Aransas Adult Softball League

8. Community Profile

Port Aransas, Texas Population and Demographics

Port Aransas, TX, population 3,370, is located in Texas's Nueces County, about 20.6 miles from Corpus Christi and 133.8 miles from McAllen.

Through the 1990's, the population of Port Aransas grew by about 51 percent and recent estimates put the annual growth rate at approximately 1.5 percent.

Port Aransas Population – 2000 Census

3,370

Male	1753	52.02%
Female	1,617	47.98%

Age²

	Number	Number	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent	
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Both sexes	Male	Female	
Total population	3,370	1,753	1,617	100.0	100.0	100.0	108.4
Under 5 years	134	68	66	4.0	3.9	4.1	103.0
5 to 9 years	153	86	67	4.5	4.9	4.1	128.4
10 to 14 years	193	104	89	5.7	5.9	5.5	116.9
15 to 19 years	224	128	96	6.6	7.3	5.9	133.3
20 to 24 years	124	70	54	3.7	4.0	3.3	129.6
25 to 29 years	134	67	67	4.0	3.8	4.1	100.0
30 to 34 years	155	70	85	4.6	4.0	5.3	82.4
35 to 39 years	253	125	128	7.5	7.1	7.9	97.7
40 to 44 years	306	148	158	9.1	8.4	9.8	93.7
45 to 49 years	339	167	172	10.1	9.5	10.6	97.1
50 to 54 years	303	157	146	9.0	9.0	9.0	107.5
55 to 59 years	275	149	126	8.2	8.5	7.8	118.3
60 to 64 years	248	133	115	7.4	7.6	7.1	115.7
65 to 69 years	193	109	84	5.7	6.2	5.2	129.8
70 to 74 years	157	81	76	4.7	4.6	4.7	106.6
75 to 79 years	113	59	54	3.4	3.4	3.3	109.3
80 to 84 years	44	20	24	1.3	1.1	1.5	83.3
85 to 89 years	16	9	7	0.5	0.5	0.4	128.6
90 years and over	6	3	3	0.2	0.2	0.2	100.0

Source: 2: factfinder.census.gov

Race²

White		
Total population (all races)	3,370	100.0
White alone or in combination ¹	3,211	95.3
White alone	3,165	93.9
White in combination ¹	46	1.4
Not White alone or in combination ¹	159	4.7
Black or African American		
Total population (all races)	3,370	100.0
Black or African American alone or in combination ¹	17	0.5
Black or African American alone	14	0.4
Black or African American in combination ¹	3	0.1
Not Black or African American alone or in combination ¹	3,353	99.5
American Indian and Alaskan Native		
Total population (all races)	3,370	100.0
American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination ¹	61	1.8
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	42	1.2
American Indian and Alaska Native in combination ¹	19	0.6
Not American Indian and Alaska Native alone or in combination ¹	3,309	98.2
Asian		
Total population (all races)	3,370	100.0
Asian alone or in combination ¹	30	0.9
Asian alone	29	0.9
Asian in combination ¹	1	0.0
Not Asian alone or in combination ¹	3,340	99.1
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander		
Total population (all races)	3,370	100.0
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone or in combination ¹	8	0.2
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	1	0.0
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander in combination ¹	7	0.2
Not Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone or in combination ¹	3,362	99.8
Some other race		
Total population (all races)	3,370	100.0
Some other race alone or in combination ¹	90	2.7
Some other race alone	73	2.2
Some other race in combination ¹	17	0.5
Not Some other race alone or in combination ¹	3,280	97.3

1. In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers for race "alone or in combination" may add to more than the total population and the six percentages for race "alone or in combination" may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: 2: factfinder.census.gov

Educational Attainment (Highest Level)²

Population 25 years and over	Both Sexes 2,538	Male 1,301	Female 1,237
Less than 5th grade	16	7	9
5th to 8th grade	48	22	26
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	255	135	120
High school graduate (incl. equivalency)	659	305	354
Some college credit, less than 1 year	205	96	109
1 or more years of college, no degree	486	248	238
Associate degree	162	72	90
Bachelor's degree	438	246	192
Master's degree	176	95	81
Professional degree	59	48	11
Doctorate degree	34	27	7

Income Distribution²

	Households	Total	Married Couple Families	Female Householder	Non-family Households
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than \$10,000	10.2	4.6	3.1	11.9	21.5
\$10,000 to \$14,999	7.1	4.6	2.4	20.2	13.3
\$15,000 to \$19,999	8.6	4.2	3.3	11.0	15.9
\$20,000 to \$24,999	7.5	6.5	6.7	5.5	10.1
\$25,000 to \$29,999	7.0	7.2	6.9	8.3	7.1
\$30,000 to \$34,999	4.8	5.6	5.0	12.8	3.9
\$35,000 to \$39,999	5.4	6.0	6.3	6.4	3.6
\$40,000 to \$44,999	6.8	8.0	7.4	11.0	4.7
\$45,000 to \$49,999	6.8	7.4	8.5	1.8	5.1
\$50,000 to \$59,999	9.5	10.3	10.0	4.6	7.5
\$60,000 to \$74,999	7.7	10.3	11.5	4.6	2.1
\$75,000 to \$99,999	9.4	13.2	15.1	1.8	1.9
\$100,000 to \$124,999	3.0	4.0	4.7	0.0	1.1
\$125,000 to \$149,999	2.2	3.1	3.7	0.0	0.4
\$150,000 to \$199,999	1.6	2.0	2.4	0.0	0.7
\$200,000 or more	2.3	3.0	3.1	0.0	1.1

Source: 2: factfinder.census.gov

Households by Type²

Household Type		
Total households	1,542	100.0
Family households	993	64.4
Male householder	760	49.3
Female householder	233	15.1
Nonfamily households	549	35.6
Male householder	319	20.7
Living alone	258	16.7
Female householder	230	14.9
Living alone	190	12.3
Household Size		
Total households	1,542	100.0
1-person household	448	29.1
2-person household	674	43.7
3-person household	215	13.9
4-person household	133	8.6
5-person household	50	3.2
6-person household	18	1.2
7-or-more-person household	4	0.3
Average household size	2.18	(X)
Average family size	2.64	(X)
Family Type and Presence of Own Children		
Families	993	100.0
With related children under 18 years	377	38.0
With own children under 18 years	348	35.0
Under 6 years only	60	6.0
Under 6 and 6 to 17 years	45	4.5
6 to 17 years only	243	24.5
Married-couple families	826	100.0
With related children under 18 years	260	31.5
With own children under 18 years	244	29.5
Under 6 years only	42	5.1
Under 6 and 6 to 17 years	31	3.8
6 to 17 years only	171	20.7
Female householder, no husband present	113	100.0
With related children under 18 years	82	72.6
With own children under 18 years	72	63.7
Under 6 years only	11	9.7
Under 6 and 6 to 17 years	10	8.8
6 to 17 years only	51	45.1

Source: 2: factfinder.census.gov

Household Relationship²

Household population	3,360	100.0
Householder	1,542	45.9
Spouse	826	24.6
Child	710	21.1
Under 18 years	577	17.2
Grandchild	33	1.0
Brother or sister	17	0.5
Parent	12	0.4
Other relatives of householder	27	0.8
Non-relatives of householder	193	5.7
Roomer, boarder or foster child	31	0.9
Housemate or roommate	57	1.7
Unmarried partner	74	2.2
Other non-relatives	31	0.9

* Based on 2000 US Census data.

Source: 2: factfinder.census.gov

Population 2000 and Projected Population 2005-2040 by Race/Ethnicity and Migration Scenario for Nueces County¹

“Many users want to know which projection scenario to use for various forms of analysis and thus we generally recommend a specific scenario for use in most counties. At the same time, it is important to note that other scenarios may be more appropriate for a given county for a given period of time.

From our analyses of these projection scenarios, we believe that the 0.5 scenario is the most appropriate scenario for most counties for use in long-term planning. This recommendation is suggested for several reasons.

First, the 1990-2000 period was a period of expansive growth in the Texas economy. There has been a general slowdown in the U.S. and Texas economies since 2000 that is likely to slow population growth. Although a recovery is occurring, it is uncertain at this time when it will be complete. At the same time, we believe that the substantial changes shown for 2000-2002 for many areas are unlikely to prevail over the long run in most areas, thus its use for long term projections such as those produced here seems ill advised. The 0.5 scenario produces a statewide annual rate of growth of approximately 1.5, percent slower than 1990-2000 but still substantial growth, given the 2000 population base. It thus represents a rate of growth more moderate than the rapid growth of the 1990s but one that produces substantial population growth in the State.

Second, the 2000 Census count showed a substantially larger U.S. and Texas population than was anticipated. Although the Census Bureau has not fully determined the reasons for this, it is likely that the 2000 count included persons who were missed in 1990. Since residual migration measures classify such persons as 1990-2000 migrants and three of the scenarios are based on 1990-2000 migration patterns, it is possible that the migration rates for some groups, for some periods, for some counties are too high suggesting the use of a more moderate rate of growth scenario. Third, although the scenarios use trends in births and deaths, they assume constant levels of migration. Such an assumption is used because of the lack of historical data of sufficient specificity to trend these rates over time. Our analyses of such rates suggest that it is unlikely that such trends (especially in some key groups) will continue at the level of the 1990s. At the same time, the overall direction of trends and differences among racial/ethnic groups seem likely to continue suggesting the need for the use of a scenario that is based on 1990-2000 trends in migration but shows slower growth--the 0.5 scenario.

Source: 1: txsdc.utsa.edu

Finally, higher than expected birth rates and elderly survival rates from 2000 to 2002 resulted in an alteration of projected fertility and mortality rates so that larger populations are projected under the 0.0, 0.5 and 1.0 scenarios. Because all four projection scenarios use the same fertility and mortality projections, the projected values for the three scenarios used in the previous (2001) projections are higher in this (2004) set of projections than in the previous projections. As a result, the rates of growth shown for the 1.0 scenario have become even higher and even more difficult to sustain over the projection period. This serves as an additional factor further recommending the use of the 0.5 scenario for long-term planning purposes."

The 1990-2000 Migration (1.0) Scenario

The 1990-2000 scenario assumes that the trends in the age, sex and race/ethnicity net migration rates of the 1990s will characterize those occurring in the future of Texas. The 1990s was a period characterized by rapid growth. It is seen here as the high growth alternative because its overall total decade pattern is one of substantial growth (i.e., 22.8% for the 1990-2000 decade for the State). Because growth was so extensive during the 1990s it is likely to be unsustainable over time and thus this scenario is presented here as a high growth alternative. For counties that experienced net outmigration during the 1990s, this scenario produces continued decline.

Year	Total	Anglo	Black	Hispanic	Other
2000	313,645	120,191	13,294	174,951	5,209
2005	338,197	115,168	13,903	202,127	6,999
2010	365,920	109,133	14,553	233,064	9,170
2015	395,199	102,208	15,175	265,992	11,824
2020	423,331	94,026	15,711	298,642	14,952
2025	449,485	84,962	16,003	329,829	18,691
2030	474,636	75,583	16,053	359,925	23,075
2035	499,328	66,357	15,898	388,872	28,201
2040	522,165	57,510	15,559	414,972	34,124

**Texas Water Development Board³
2006 Regional Water Plan
City Population Projections for 2000 - 2060**

City Name	P2000 Census	P2010	P2020	P2030	P2040	P2050	P2060
Port Aransas	3,370	5,565	7,843	9,830	11,575	13,117	14,348

Source: 3: twdb.state.tx.us

E. STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) provides the industry standard for parks, recreation and open space design as recognized by park planning professionals throughout the country. This master plan follows the latest published nomenclature and standards as outlined by NRPA in the Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Guidelines 1996 edition.

NRPA has directed that each municipality or governmental agency develop and provide its own guideline for growth and park planning as dictated by local conditions. As such, a numerical nationwide template of standards for parks growth does not exist, although the development of one for each municipality is encouraged. Previously NRPA had directed a minimum of 11 acres of parkland /1000 population.

With that background, the following standards and guidelines are to be used by the City of Port Aransas as a guide for minimum goals to be achieved by the City as its park system further develops. As with any issue that arises, the practice of applying these standards to specific situations should be tempered with the wisdom of the local needs and the context in which they are proposed.

This master plan follows national park classification systems as outlined by NRPA. For purposes of this master plan, the City of Port Aransas has divided

park classifications into the following sections:

Portal Parks

Typically, Portal Parks vary from 2500 SF to 1 acre in size and service the immediately surrounding area up to a ¼-mile radius. Amenities in these parks are unique to the area and in some cases are simply open space areas.

Neighborhood Parks

As the basic unit of any City's park system, neighborhood parks serve residents in a ¼ to ½ mile area. Typically, there is little if any parking and roadway infrastructure at the park and the focus tends to be on informal activities and servicing passive recreational needs. Neighborhood parks for the City of Port Aransas should be a minimum of 2-3 acres.

Community Parks

Active program elements such as ball fields and larger community-based recreation needs are served by the Community Park classification. They range from 16 to 99 acres in size and have a 1-1/2-mile level of service area.

Metropolitan Park

Metropolitan Parks are large parks ranging from 100 to 499 acres in size. They typically offer active and passive recreational opportunities and a variety of remote outdoor activities such as overnight camping, fishing, hiking and biking, and the like.

Regional Parks

The service area for regional parks accommodates any dwellings within a 1-hour drive. These facilities are very large in scale with acreages greater than 500 acres. Regional parks service several communities and offer an abundance of both active and passive recreational activities.

Natural Resource Parks

These are natural areas that are set aside as scenic buffers or for preservation. They are intended for limited passive recreation opportunities.

Linear Parks / Greenways

These are the connectors that link the park system together as well as to other neighborhoods and cultural amenities. Width varies to accommodate specific user, site requirements, and safety needs.

Special Use Park

These lands may be designated as parkland by the City to serve other uses besides traditional park and recreation needs.

*Comparison of Existing to Adopted Standards Projections 2005, 2010, 2015
Comparison to Facilities*

Existing Park Land Acreage – City of Port Aransas

Park Classification	Park	Acreage
Portal Park	None	0.00
	Total	0.00
Neighborhood Parks	None	0.00
	Total	0.00
Community Parks	Roberts Point Park	49.50
	Community Park	19.32
	Total	68.82
Metropolitan Parks	None	0.00
	Total	0.00
Regional Parks	None	0.00
	Total	0.00
Natural Resource Parks	State Highway 361 Wetland Overlook	0.22
	Ancel Brundrett Fishing Pier	0.30
	Leonabell Turnbull Birding Center	2.3
	City Fishing Pier	.20
	Paradise Pond	2.0
	Port Aransas Beach	150
	Total	155.02
Linear Parks / Greenways	None	0.00
	Total	0.00
Special Use Park	City Marina	10.1
	Total	10.1
	Total Park Acreages	233.94

Local Park Acreage Guidelines Applied to Total Port Aransas Park Land Inventory

Park Facility	Existing Acreage	Guidelines for Existing 2005 Population of 4,467	Guidelines for Projected 2010 Population of 5,565	Guidelines for Projected 2015 Population of 6,704
		Suggested Acreage	Suggested Acreage	Suggested Acreage
Portal Park	0.00	2.25 acres .5 ac/1000 pop.	2.78 acres .5 ac/1000 pop.	3.35 acres .5/1000 pop.
Neighborhood Parks	0.00	0 acres 0 ac/1000 pop.	1.39 acres .25 ac/1000 pop.	1.67 acres .25 ac/1000 pop.
Community Parks	68.82	71.47 acres 16.0 ac/1000 pop.	89.04 acres 16.0 ac/1000 pop.	107.26 acres 16.0 ac/1000 pop.
Metropolitan Park	0.00	Variable	Variable	Variable
Regional Parks	0.00	Variable	Variable	Variable
Natural Resource Parks	155.02	155.02	1,244.02 acres	1,244.02 acres
Linear Parks / Greenways	0.00	Variable	Variable	Variable
Special Use Park	10.1	Remain at 10.1	Remain at 10.1	Remain at 10.1
Totals	233.94	238.84	258.33^A	277.40^A

A. At the time this plan was being prepared the City of Port Aransas was seeking to master plan the preservation and passive recreation of Nature Preserve land leased from the Texas General Land Office. The totals reflected do not take the 1089 acres of the nature preserve into consideration.

Local Park Acreage Guidelines Compared to 2005 Population in Port Aransas

Park Facility	Existing Acreage	Guidelines for Existing 2005 Population of 4,467	Differences between Guidelines and Existing Parks
		Suggested Acreage	
Portal Park	0.00	2.25 acres .5 ac/1000 pop.	-2.25 acres
Neighborhood Parks	0.00	0 acres 0 ac/1000 pop.	0
Community Parks	68.82	71.47 acres 16.0 ac/1000 pop.	-2.65 acres
Metropolitan Park	0.00	Variable	0
Regional Parks	0.00	Variable	0
Natural Resource Parks	155.02	155.02	0
Linear Parks / Greenways	0.00	Variable	0
Special Use Park	10.1	Remain at 10.1	0
Totals	233.94	238.84	-4.90 acres

Local Park Acreage Guidelines Compared to 2010 Population in Port Aransas

Park Facility	Existing Acreage	Guidelines for Projected 2010 Population of 5,565	Differences between Guidelines and Existing Parks
		Suggested Acreage	
Portal Park	0.00	2.78 acres <i>.5 ac/1000 pop.</i>	-2.78 acres
Neighborhood Parks	0.00	1.39 acres <i>.25 ac/1000 pop.</i>	-1.39 acres
Community Parks	68.82	89.04 acres <i>16.0 ac/1000 pop.</i>	-20.22 acres
Metropolitan Park	0.00	Variable	0
Regional Parks	0.00	Variable	0
Natural Resource Parks	155.02	1,244.02 acres	-1089 acres
Linear Parks / Greenways	0.00	Variable	0
Special Use Park	10.1	Remain at 10.1	0
Totals	233.94	258.33^A	-24.39 acres^A

A. At the time this plan was being prepared the City of Port Aransas was seeking to master plan the preservation and passive recreation of Nature Preserve land leased from the Texas General Land Office. The totals reflected do not take the 1089 acres of the nature preserve into consideration.

Local Park Acreage Guidelines Compared to 2015 Population in Port Aransas

Park Facility	Existing Acreage	Guidelines for Projected 2015 Population of 6,704	Differences between Guidelines and Existing Parks
		Suggested Acreage	
Portal Park	0.00	3.35 acres <i>.5/1000 pop.</i>	-3.35 acres
Neighborhood Parks	0.00	1.67 acres <i>.25 ac/1000 pop.</i>	-1.67 acres
Community Parks	68.82	107.26 acres <i>16.0 ac/1000 pop.</i>	-38.44 acres
Metropolitan Park	0.00	Variable	0
Regional Parks	0.00	Variable	0
Natural Resource Parks	155.02	1,244.02 acres	-1089
Linear Parks/ Greenways	0.00	Variable	0
Special Use Park	10.1	Remain at 10.1	0
Totals	233.94	277.40^A	-43.46 acres^A

A. At the time this plan was being prepared the City of Port Aransas was seeking to master plan the preservation and passive recreation of Nature Preserve land leased from the Texas General Land Office. The totals reflected do not take the 1089 acres of the nature preserve into consideration.

NRPA Facility Development Guidelines Applied to City of Port Aransas

Activity / Facility	Recommended Facilities per population	Existing Facilities in Port Aransas	Guidelines for Existing 2005 Population of 4,467	Guidelines for Projected 2010 Population of 5,565	Guidelines for Projected 2015 Population of 6,704
Baseball Field (league)	1 / 5,000	2	2	2	2
Baseball Field(practice)	1.5 for each league facility	1	1	1	1
Basketball Courts (outdoor)	1 / 5,000	2	2	2	3
Football Fields	1 / 20,000	0	0	0	0
Golf Course	1 / 50,000	0	0	0	0
Pavilion / Picnic Shelter	1 / 2,000	2	3	3	3
Picnic Tables	1 table 300	45	50	55	60
Playgrounds	1 area / 1,000	4	4	5	6
Recreation Center	1 per 20,000 – 30,000	0	0	1	1
Soccer Fields (League)	1 / 5,000	2	2	2	2
Soccer Fields (Practice)	1.5 for each league facility	0	0	0	0
Softball Fields (League)	1 / 5,000	0	0	0	0
Softball Fields (Practice)	1.5 for each league facility	0	0	0	0
Swimming Pool (Outdoors)	1 per 20,000	1	1	1	1
Tennis Courts ^B	1 court / 2,000	0	0	1	2
Trails	½ - 1 mile per 10,000	1.1	1.5 miles	2.0 miles	3 miles
Volleyball Areas (Outdoor)	1 / 5,000	2	2	2	2

Sources

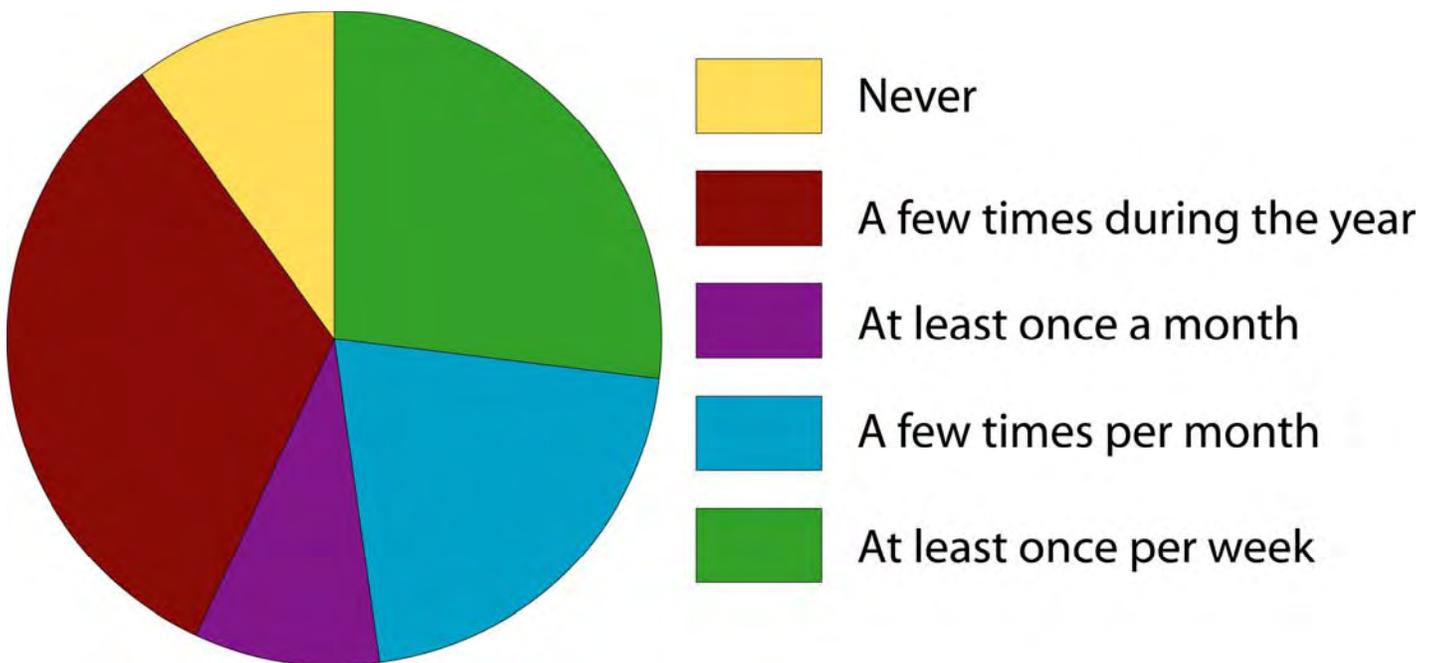
- A. Guidelines from Appendix A in Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, p. 60-61, 4th printing 1990, a publication of the National Recreation and Park Association.
- B. When school is not in session, Port Aransas ISD also has eight tennis courts open to the public for recreational use.

F. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

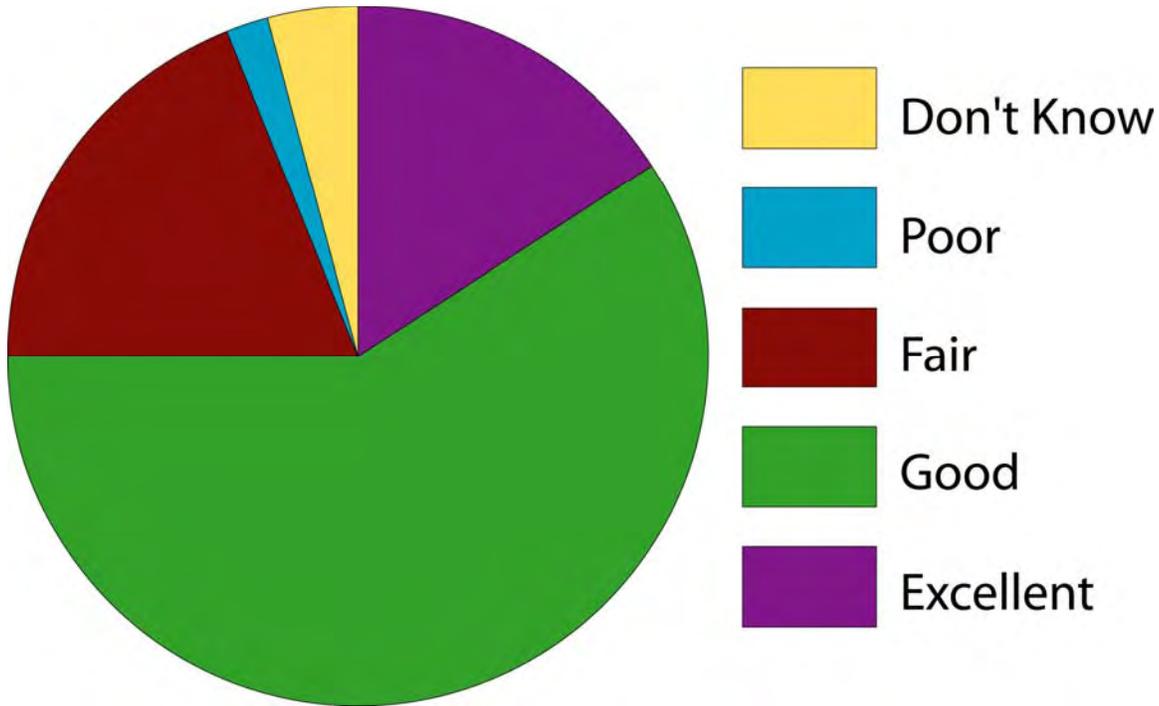
Members of City staff and the Land Design Partners Team developed a Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey that was distributed to the residents of Port Aransas in February of 2005. Over 370 residents or approximately 10% of the population of Port Aransas completed the survey.

The results of this survey are listed below followed by the survey that was distributed.

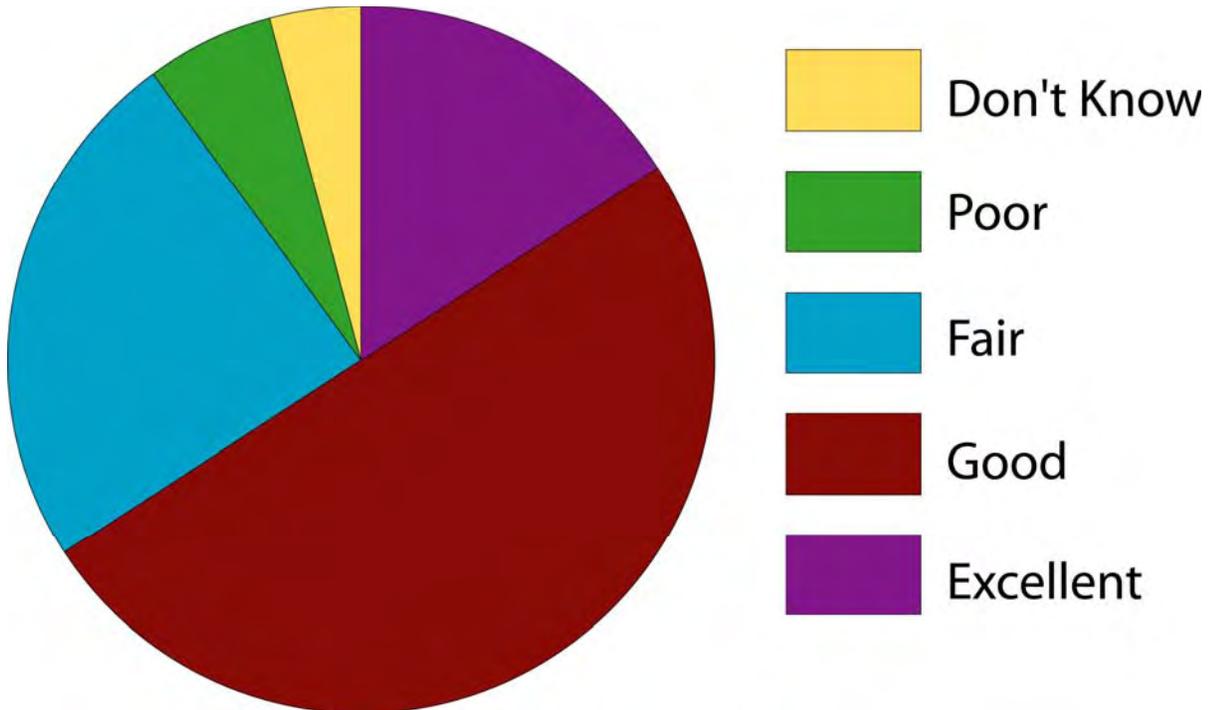
1. How often have you visited Port Aransas Parks during the past year?



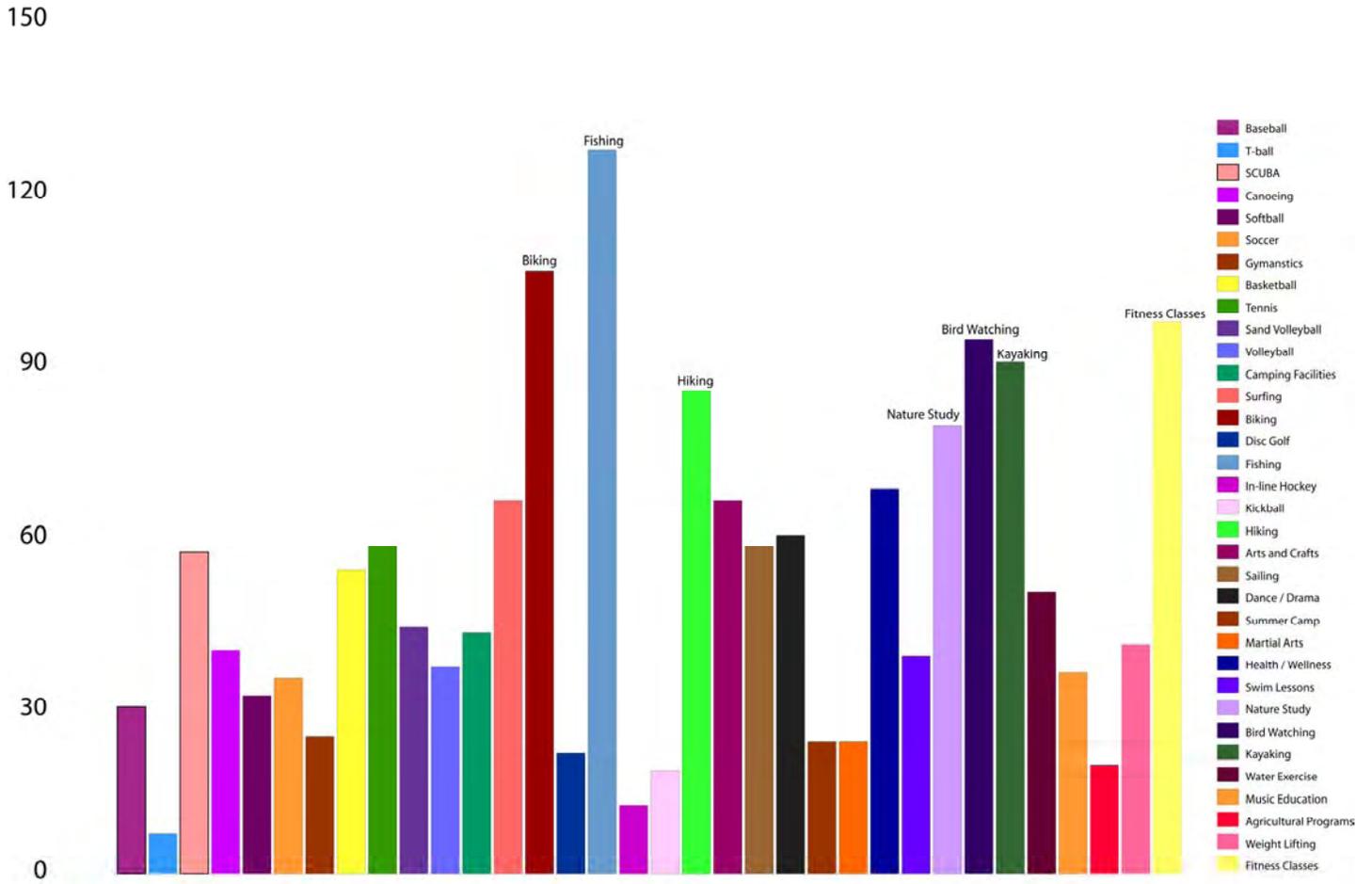
2. Physical Condition Rating



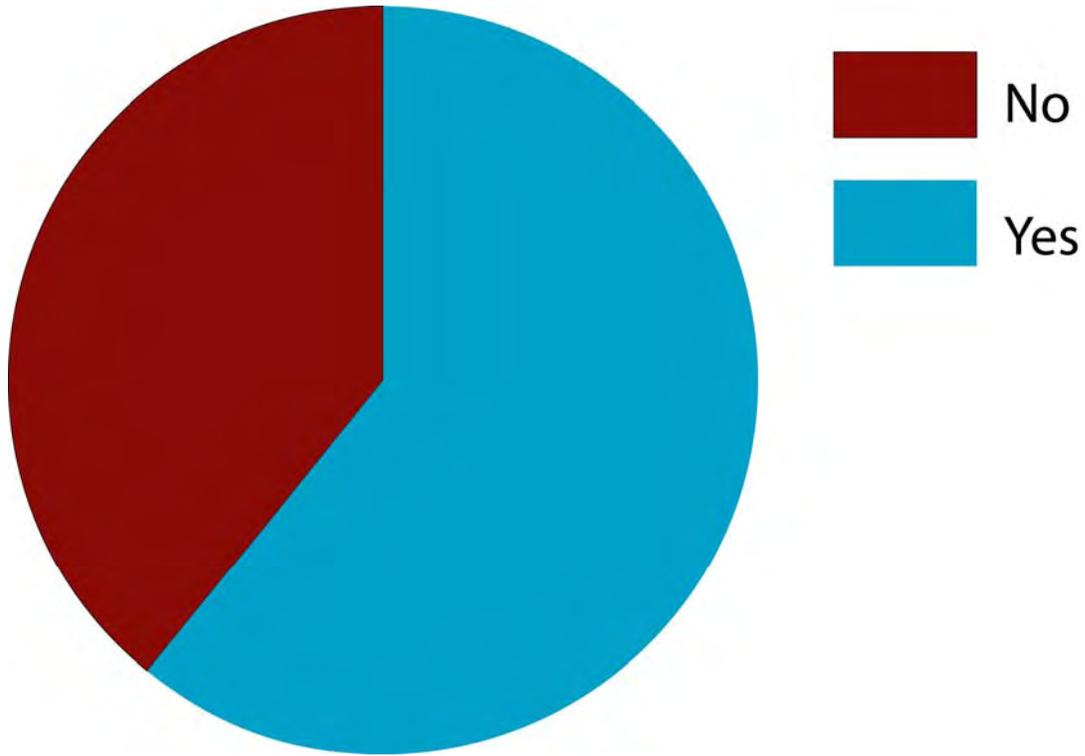
3. Parks, Recreational Opportunities, and Open Space Rating



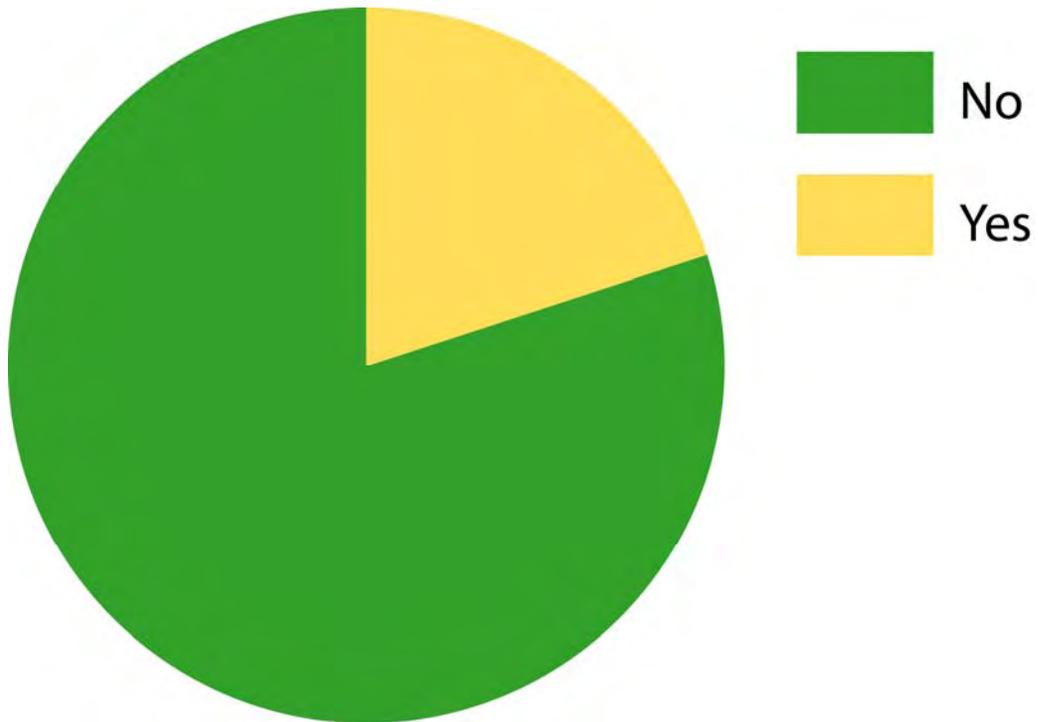
4. Activities of most interest to Residents



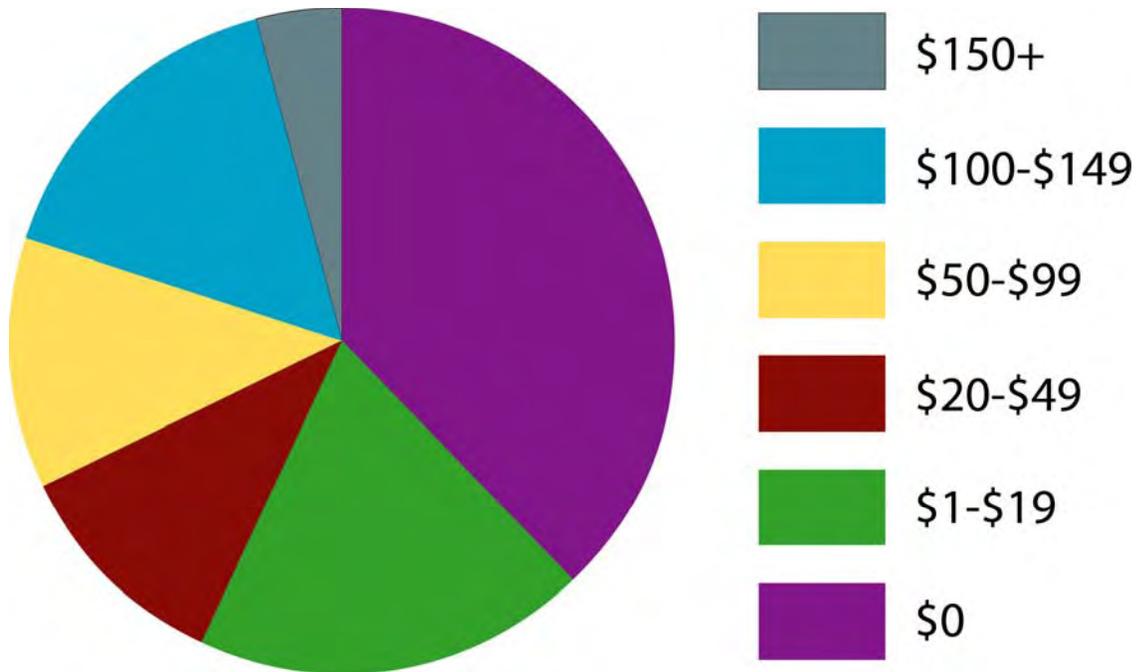
5. Should Port Aransas impose fees to offset the cost of programs and activities?



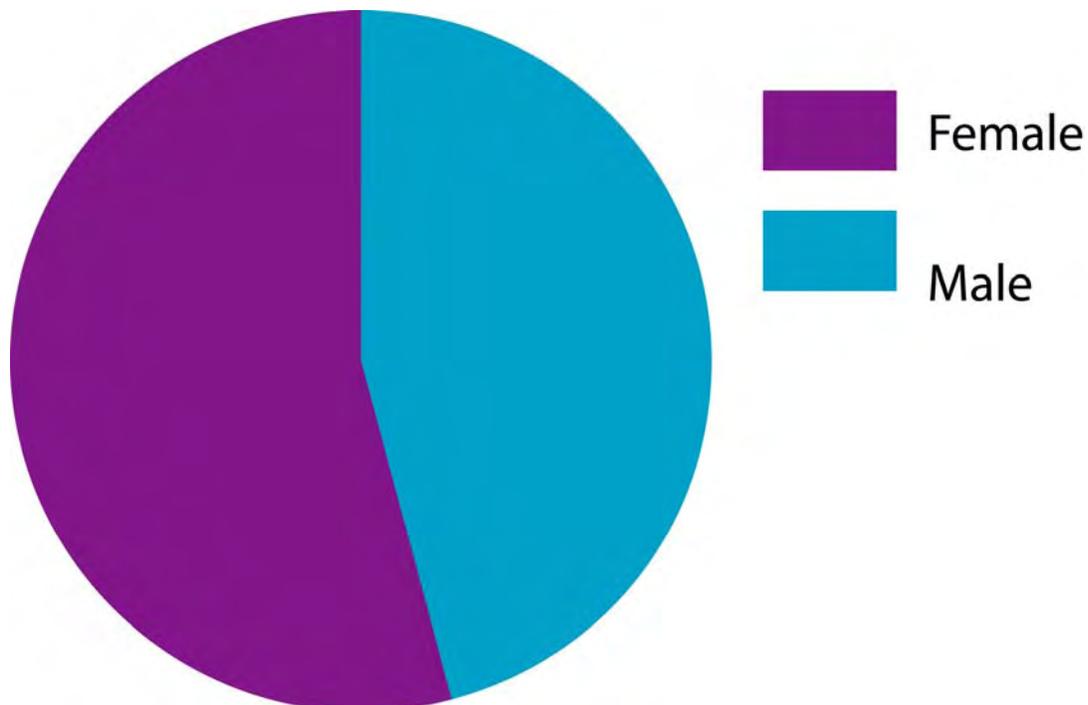
6. Should Port Aransas increase taxes to offset the cost of programs and activities?



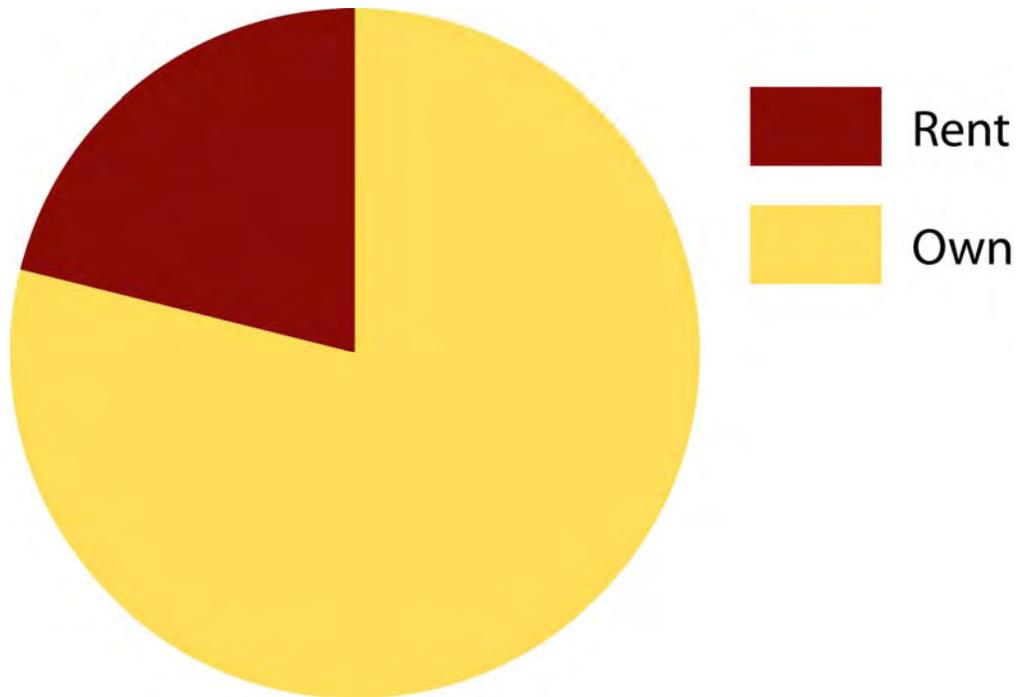
7. The amount citizens would be willing to pay in new taxes or fees per year to see Port Aransas develop new parks or recreational programs:



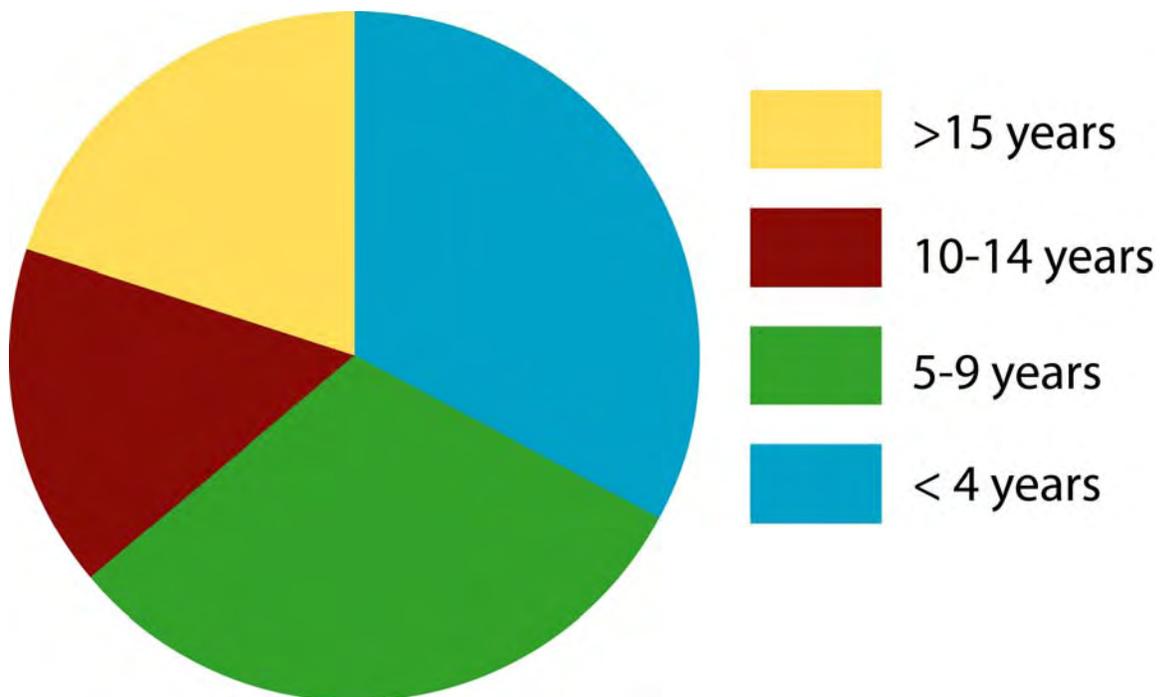
8. What percentage of survey participants are male or female?



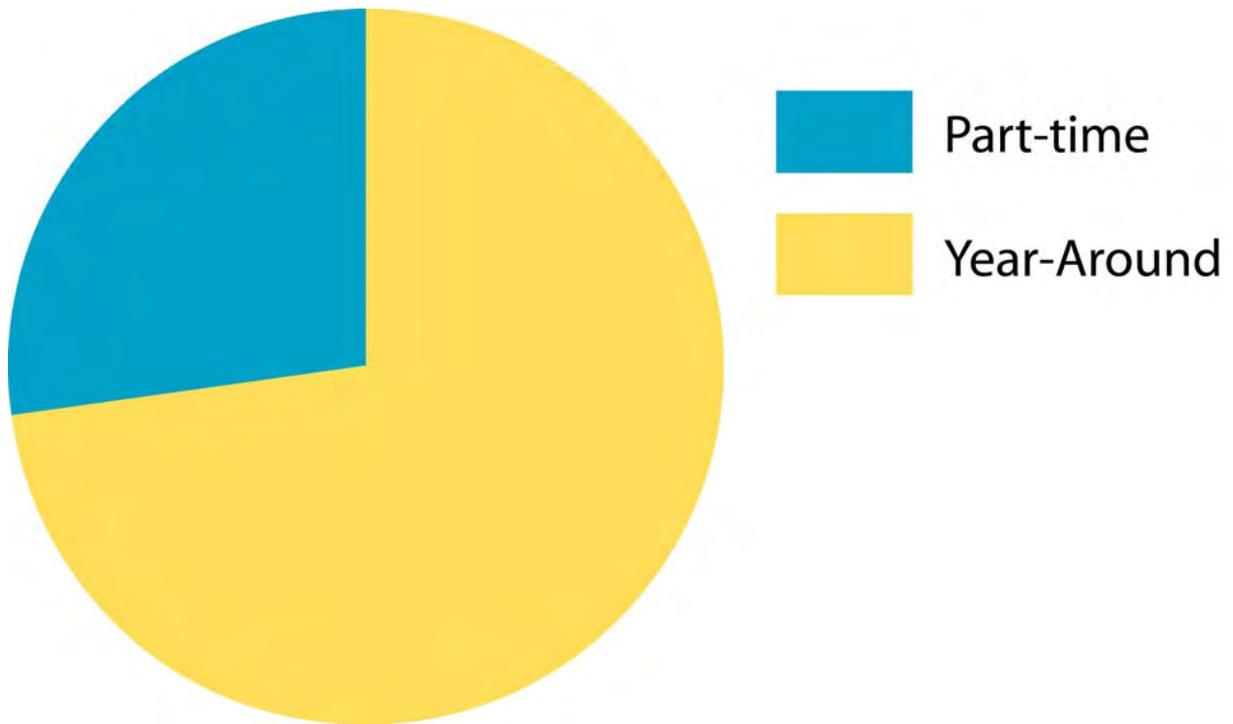
9. What percentage of survey participants own or rent their own home?



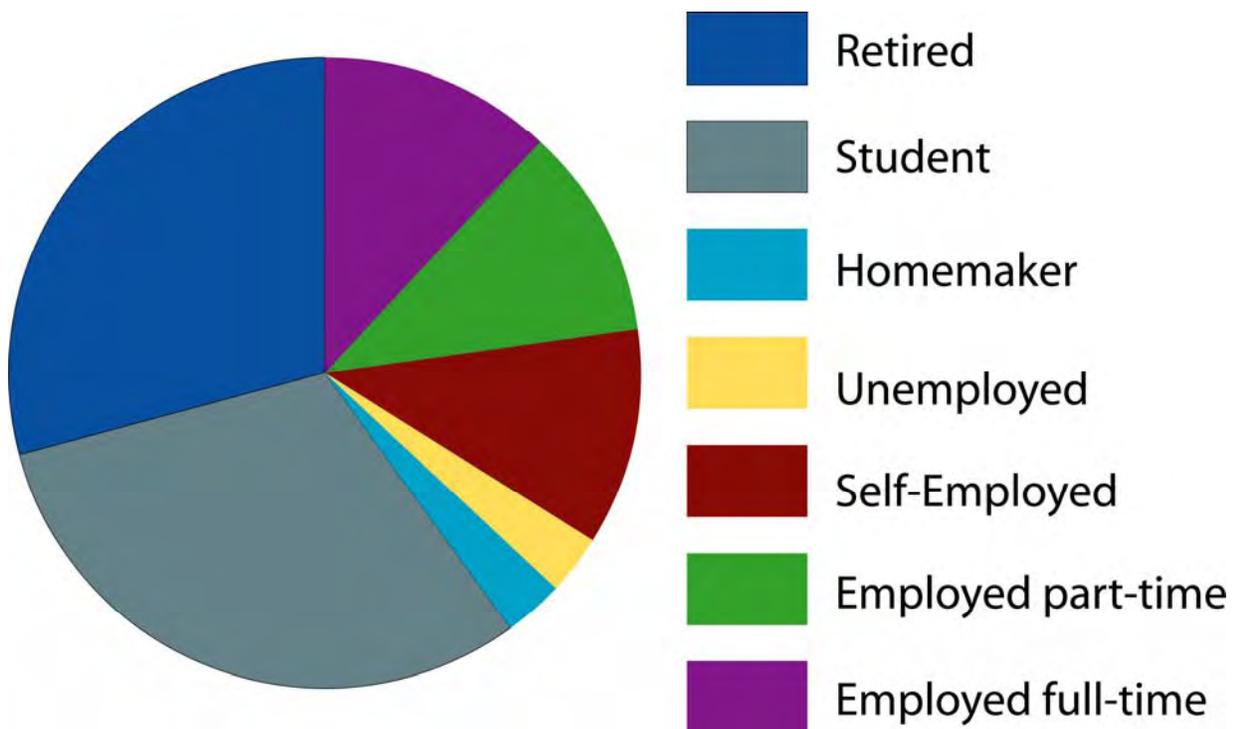
10. How long have you been a Port Aransas resident?



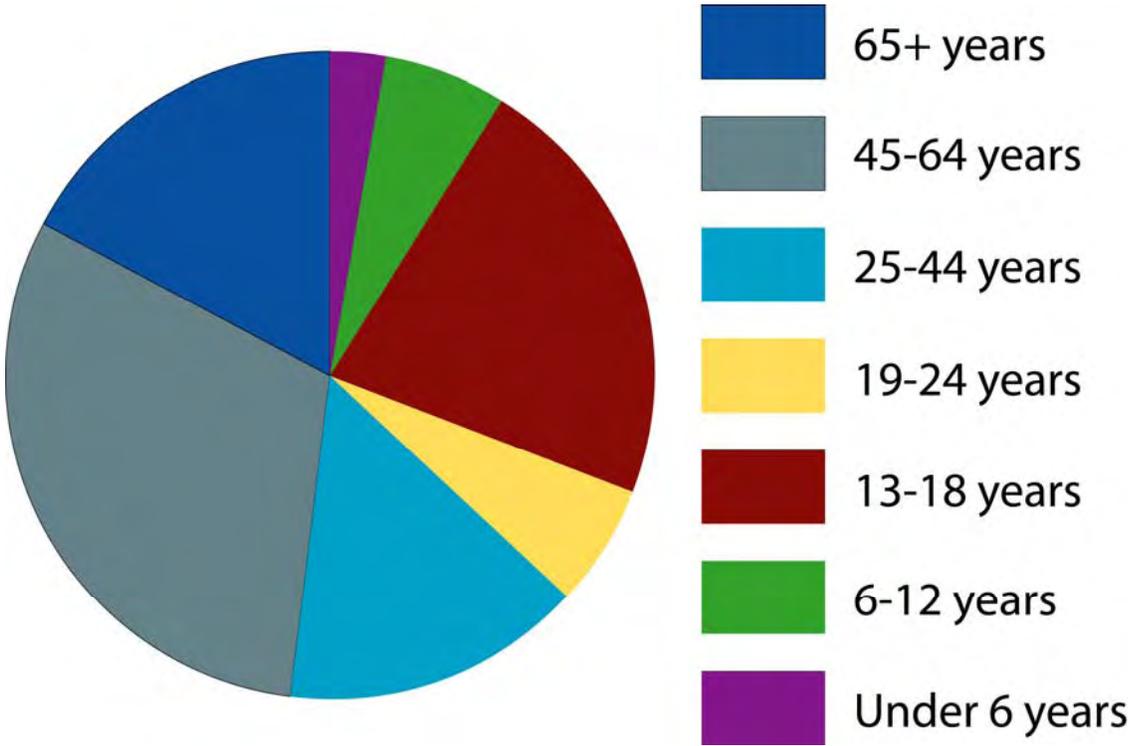
11. What percentage of survey participants live in Port Aransas year around?



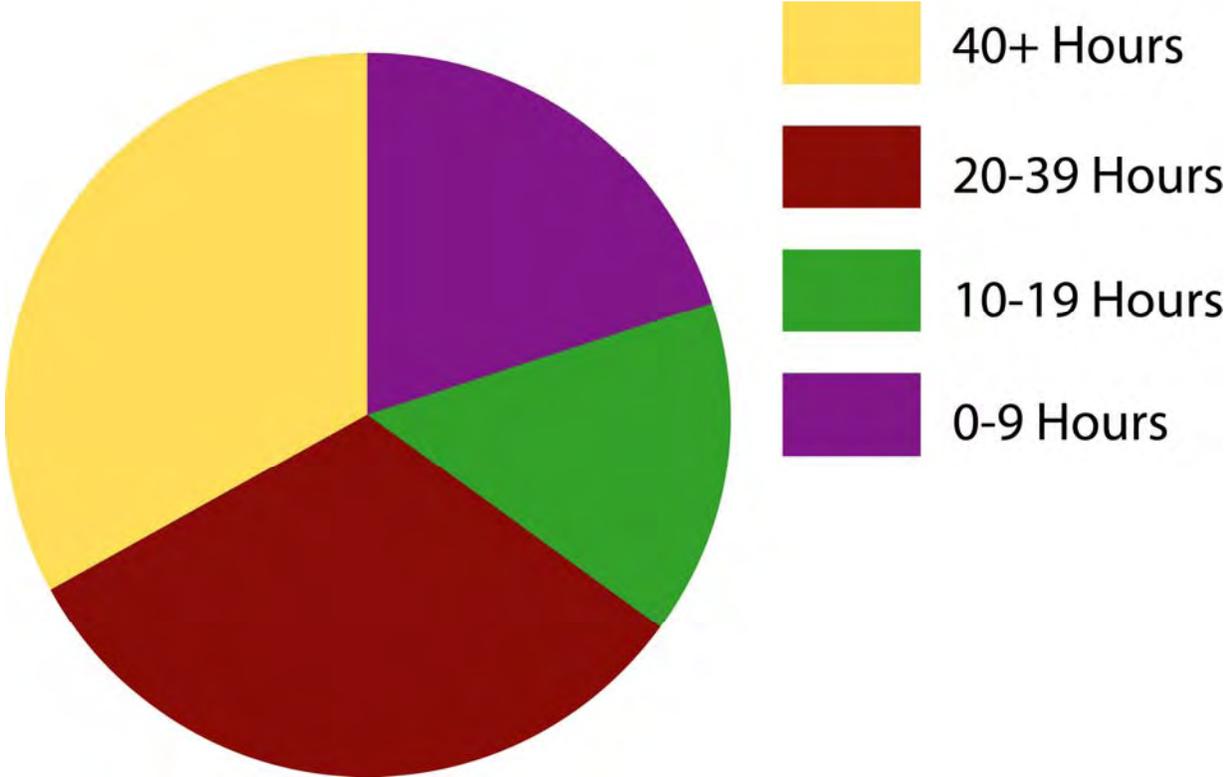
12. What is the occupational status of survey participants?



13. Percentage of people in survey participants' household in the following age categories:



14. How many hours per month do survey participants spend on recreational activities?



6) Do you feel there is a definite, somewhat or no need for any of the following RECREATION facilities that would be ADDED to existing parks or in future parks?

(please mark one column per facility)

Recreation Facility	Definitely Needed	Somewhat Needed	Not Needed	No Opinion Not familiar
Multi-purpose Center	_____	_____	_____	_____
Hike & Bike Trails	_____	_____	_____	_____
Skateboard Park/ In-line Skate/Hockey Rink	_____	_____	_____	_____
Natural/Open Spaces	_____	_____	_____	_____
Fishing Access Areas	_____	_____	_____	_____
Picnic Shelters/Pavilions	_____	_____	_____	_____
Botanic/Flower Garden areas	_____	_____	_____	_____
Playground Areas	_____	_____	_____	_____
Senior Center	_____	_____	_____	_____
Community Gardens	_____	_____	_____	_____

7) Do you believe that the City of Port Aransas should...

impose fees to offset the cost of programs and activities? Yes _____ No _____

increase taxes to offset the cost of programs and activities? Yes _____ No _____

8) I would be willing to pay \$ _____ in new taxes and/or fees per year to see Port Aransas develop new parks and/or recreation programs.

9) List parks and recreation facilities not noted here that the City of Port Aransas should consider constructing in the future.

10) List activities or programs not noted here that the City of Port Aransas should consider sponsoring in the future.

The final section of this survey asks for information about you and your household. You may be assured that the information will be kept confidential & used only for statistical purposes.

<p>A) I am Male Female</p> <p>B) I Own my home Rent my home</p> <p>C) I have lived in Port Aransas for _____ years.</p> <p>D) I live in Port Aransas Year-round Part-time</p> <p>E) Months I reside in Port Aransas _____</p> <p>F) I Am Am not the head of household.</p> <p>G) I am Employed full-time Self-employed Employed part-time Unemployed Homemaker Student Retired</p>	<p>H) Including yourself, indicate the NUMBER of people in your household who are in the following age categories. (If none, write "0")</p> <p>Under 6 yrs _____ 25-44 years _____ 6-12 years _____ 45-64 years _____ 13-18 years _____ 65 yrs & older _____ 19-24 years _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total # of persons _____</p> <p>I) The year I was born: _____</p> <p>J) Approximately how many hours per month do you spend on recreation activities? _____ hours</p> <p>K) Approximately how much do you spend on recreational activities per month? \$ _____ (dollars)</p>
--	--

We appreciate your taking the time to complete this survey and return it to Parks and Recreation, 710 W Avenue A, Port Aransas, TX 78373

G. RECOMMENDATIONS AND PRIORITIES

The recommendations and results indicated in this section are a combined result of the evaluation of the needs assessment survey, the parks inventory, and the evaluation of the parks in comparison with the park standards and guidelines developed by the City.

In evaluating the needs assessment surveys, the surveys were categorized into four categories and weighted in the following order:

Public/Residents Input

The City of Port Aransas received over 370 completed surveys back from the public.

City Staff Input

Members of the City Parks and Recreation staff also completed the Park and Recreation Survey.

Parks and Recreation Board Input

Five active members of the City of Port Aransas Parks and Recreation Board completed the Park and Recreation Survey in the spring of 2005 to provide their input and direction.

City Manager Input

Mr. Michael Kovacs, City of Port Aransas City Manager, completed the survey to give input from the city management perspective.

The following priorities are a culmination of the tabulation of these surveys, the park inventory and the parks standards and guidelines developed by the City:

Summary of Outdoor Priority Items – City of Port Aransas Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan

Facility	High	Moderate	Low
Hike/Bike Trail	•		
Natural Open Spaces	•		
Fishing Access Areas	•		
Picnic Shelters/Pavillions	•		
Skate Park	•		
Botanic Flower Garden		•	
Playground Areas		•	
Community Garden		•	
Basketball Courts		•	
Volleyball Courts		•	
Softball Fields			•
Soccer Fields			•
Tennis Courts			•
Baseball Fields			•

**Summary of Indoor Priority Items – City of Port Aransas
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan**

Facility	High	Moderate	Low
Multi-Purpose Center	•		
Senior Center			•

Recommendations for Outdoor Facility Improvements

The following recommendations represent the specific needs and priorities for outdoor park facility improvements in the City of Port Aransas:

High Priority Items

1. Hike/Bike Trails

Residents of Port Aransas rank connections to park facilities, within parks, and to other parks, cultural activity amenities, and tourism or business locations as the highest recreational priority. Trails should be safe, wide enough to handle multiple user groups with surfacing appropriate to meet user needs. Lighting is recommended but should be evaluated site by site. Trail support amenities such as signage, benches, drinking fountains, and dog waste disposal stations should also be programmed into the hike and bike trail system. It is also recommended that the City educate potential trail users in safe appropriate trail use.



Currently, trail systems exist in Community Park and around the perimeter of Roberts Point Park. A plan promoting non-vehicular routes along Highway 361 is also being implemented by the Texas Department of Transportation.

2. Natural Open Spaces

More natural open space is also desired within the City. Citizens expressed a need for more interactive nature areas and sites with passive activities or contemplation.

Natural open spaces within the City of Port Aransas's park system currently include the Community Park, Roberts Point Park, the Highway 361 Wetlands Overlook, Birding Center, and Paradise Pond.

At the time of writing, the City of Port Aransas is in the design phase for the passive development of approximately 1200 acres associated with the Nature Preserve land being leased from the Texas General Land Office. Much of this land will be preserved as natural open space and used for passive recreation.

3. Fishing Areas

Currently, there are three fishing piers within the City: the Ancel Brundrett Fishing Pier at the north end of Station Street, the City Pier at Charlie's Pasture Park, and the JP Luby Pier located at the Roberts Point Park. Residents however, are attracted to Port Aransas in part due to its many seaside activities, and the demand exceeds the capacity of these three amenities.



As bulkheading is added or improved, the City may be able to utilize Roberts Point Park and Charlie's Pasture Park for more fishing opportunities. Other development along the perimeter of the nature preserve may afford other opportunities for fishing.

4. Picnic Shelters / Pavilions

The Parks and Recreation Department of the City currently has an inventory of 45 picnic tables (the majority of which are at the City Marina) and 2 large family pavilions in Roberts Point Park. Respondents in the needs assessment survey expressed a desire for more tables to support their outdoor recreational activities.



5. Skate Park

Providing a skate park completes the high priority items desired by survey respondents. The City of Ingleside, just west of Port Aransas, has a skate park concrete bowl that was dedicated to the public in March of 2005.

Currently there is limited skate park equipment within the City limits available to Port Aransas residents.

An important decision for the City to consider is whether residents desire a "bowl" style skate park or a skate park with pre-fabricated equipment. This determination will weigh heavily in determining costs and location of the proposed skate park(s).

Moderate Priority Items

6. Botanic Flower Garden

Botanic flower gardens were mentioned as a moderate priority for the residents of Port Aransas. There is an existing planting and interpretive area at the Highway 361 Wetlands Overlook but most of these are individual specimen plantings and do not fit the traditional definition of a botanic flower garden.

Because of the intense maintenance and upkeep of a potential botanic garden, it is recommended that staff either hire a specialist to plant and maintain the garden or privatize the botanic garden completely.

The construction of a botanic garden would also provide the City with another attraction to bring tourists to the area.

7. Playground Areas

Although listed as a moderate priority, playgrounds are an important amenity to consider as the City strives to construct more neighborhood parks. The two community parks contain playground structures that are readily accessible by car to the



majority of the population. The City should plan more playgrounds within walking distance to residential areas. PAISD has a playground at the elementary school and a playground might be suitable in any programmed active areas associated with the Nature Preserve.

8. Community Garden

Gardening opportunities were mentioned as a moderate priority for the residents of Port Aransas. Space requirements are variable and it is recommended that gardening be offered by the City.

Community gardens currently exist within the City limits at the Wetland Overlook, at the Library, and at the Birding Center.

Existing or proposed portal parks and neighborhood parks are the most suitable locations for community gardens.

9. Basketball Courts

Roberts Point Park and Community Park each have one outdoor basketball court.



Future basketball facilities should be located in active recreational settings and developed with activities for similar age ranges and skill levels.

10. Volleyball Courts

A new volleyball court could be situated in either an active or passive recreational setting. Volleyball courts are amenities that support pavilions and picnic tables and should be located at new park sites or expanded at the existing community parks. Roberts Point Park and Community Park each have one outdoor volleyball court.



For ease of maintenance, it is recommended that the City place a border around the sand / playing area to contain the volleyball court.

Low Priority Items

11. Softball Fields

The City's current softball and baseball needs are being accommodated at Community Park and at Jerry McDonald Field. These facilities are operated or maintained by the Port Aransas Parks and Recreations Department and are currently sufficient in number to meet the City's needs.



12. Soccer Fields

There is a low demand for soccer fields in the community.

The two existing fields can be configured for all sizes of play at Roberts Point Park and the Community Park. However, in order for play to occur at the Community Park, portions of the fencing for the ball field have to be temporarily removed.

In all probability, a new park location would be needed for any new soccer fields.

13. Tennis Courts

Eight existing courts are available for public use at Port Aransas ISD facilities when school is not in progress. This number is over four times the NRPA adopted tennis court recommendations per the population of Port Aransas.

14. Baseball Fields

The City's current softball and baseball needs are being accommodated at Community Park and at Jerry McDonald Field. These facilities are operated or maintained by Port Aransas Parks and Recreations Department and are currently sufficient in number to meet the City's needs.



Recommendations for Indoor Facility Improvements

The following recommendations represent the specific needs and priorities for indoor park facility improvements in the City of Port Aransas:

High Priority Items

15. Multipurpose Center/Community Center

Results from the park facilities needs assessments express an overwhelming need for a multipurpose recreation and community center in the City of Port Aransas. The recreation center should provide meeting rooms, active areas for weight training, aerobics, dance, etc., flexibility in space programming (including the ability to house several activities in the center at the same time) restrooms, offices, storage, and kitchen areas for food preparation and staging.

Currently, residents do not have access to indoor recreational activities typically found in multi-purpose recreational community centers.

It is recommended that the center be constructed at a new park location.

16. Educational/Interpretive Center

The City of Port Aransas is a destination spot for birding enthusiasts and home to many of them. To further encourage and promote birding and other environmental education, the City has a distinct need for a education/interpretive center.

The facility should be programmed to house meeting and education classrooms to serve the beach area or the nature preserve.

Low Priority Items

17. Senior Center

The programming of a senior center ranked low on the overall community priority list. Many of the amenities associated with a Senior Center could be programmed into the Multi-use /Community center as detailed above.

Recommendations for Land Acquisition

The City should investigate opportunities for acquiring land for neighborhood parks as ranked by the needs assessment survey. Based on adopted park guideline measures, the City's current deficit of neighborhood park land is projected to be -1.67 acres by the year 2015 unless the City starts to acquire land for neighborhood parks.

In a similar vein, although the City has a very nominal deficit for current community park acreage, the City's current deficit of community park land at -2.65 acres is projected to be -38.44 acres by the year 2015 unless the City starts to acquire land for community parks.

H. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This section provides a framework to assist the City of Port Aransas in obtaining the goals and objectives outlined in the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan.

This section is subdivided into the following sections: policies, ordinances, funding sources, and 10-year action plan.

Policies

The City of Port Aransas has an adopted ordinance for park policies. It is important that this ordinance be reviewed annually and revised as local conditions and issues merit.

Ordinances

Landscape Tree Ordinance

The development of a landscape tree ordinance helps to encourage, protect, and preserve tree stands where they exist and ensures that development occurs in an aesthetic and environmentally sensitive manner. In the case of Port Aransas, an ordinance would help preserve the scenic beauty of the City.

Park Land Dedication Ordinance

The City may adapt a parkland dedication ordinance to stipulate conditions under which developers set aside or dedicate specified

monies, land, or both to the City for park related purposes. This process would help ensure that residential developers are assisting the City in providing parks for any additional residential base.

Funding Sources

1. General Funds/ Capital Improvement Funds (Pay as you go)
A Capital Improvements Fund includes annual budgeting for the fiscal year. Projects may be completed in whole or in part as budgeted allowances during the fiscal year permit.
2. General Obligation Bonds
General Obligation Bonds (GO bonds) are legally backed by the full faith and credit of the issuing government. In other words, the government is obligated to use its taxing power, if necessary, to repay the debt. The passage of a bond referendum by the voters confirms popular support for the project or program that is being financed. Voter referendums may delay financing of projects. If voters do not approve bonds, officials must devise alternative methods of financing the project or cancel the project outright. The ability to issue general obligation bonds may be constrained by legal debt limits. GO bonds that are repaid with general tax revenues

do not directly equate the taxpayers benefiting from the project with the taxpayers paying for the project.

3. Revenue Bonds

Revenue Bonds are a type of Municipal Bond where principal and interest are secured by revenues such as charges or rents paid by users of the facility built with the proceeds of the bond issue. Projects financed by Revenue Bonds include highways, airports, and not-for-profit health care and other facilities.

4. User Fees

Fees are charged to park users for the opportunity to use the expanded facilities in the park or to offset the maintenance and operation of the park.

5. Grant Funding

Grant funding is widely used to pay for park and recreation improvements because it leverages tax payer dollars into funding, acquiring, and/or building of park infrastructure. See Appendix for a list of grant funding opportunities that the City of Port Aransas may pursue-including agency, application dates, purpose, and typical amounts of funding.

6. Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA -21)

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century was enacted June 9, 1998 as Public Law 105-178. TEA-21 authorizes the Federal

surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit. TEA-21 funding is state administered grant for Rebuilding America, Improving Safety, Protecting the Environment, and Creating Opportunity. Recreational trails as an alternate means of transportation are eligible for aid under this grant program.

7. Public Improvement District (P.I.D)

PIDs are created by municipalities to provide limited special services and improvements above and beyond what is normally provided by the City. Examples include landscaping, parking, enhanced security and marketing. Property owners in the PID pay special property assessments into a fund administered by the City in conjunction with an advisory body. A City Council approved service plan is established for a period of five years and can be renewed for five-year periods thereafter. PIDs can be used in conjunction with tax increment reinvestment zones.

8. Sports Facility District

Public facilities districts (PFDs) are municipal corporations with independent taxing authority and are taxing districts under the state constitution. Public facilities districts may acquire, construct, and operate sports facilities, entertainment facilities, convention facilities or regional

centers and related parking facilities.

tax, city sales tax and state sales tax.

9. Voluntary Park and Library Fund
As part of a municipality's utility bill, residents have the option of donating extra monies to the City's park and library fund. These dollars are then earmarked for parkland acquisition, park construction, maintenance or operations.
10. Parks Improvement Trust Fund
Independent of a City's budgeting program, a trust fund may be set up from contributions of private citizens or civic organizations for park improvements. Although the principal contribution can never be touched, the interest generated from the principal may be used for park development.
11. Tax Increment Financing District
TIF funds originate from the tax money generated from an improvement or development greater than the tax generated by the site before the improvement or development. This tax increment money is then allocated to the City for its use in making street, water, and sewer improvements in the District during the life of the District. At the end of the TIF term, all of the taxes will again be paid to the regular taxing bodies but at a much higher assessed valuation than would have been possible without the TIF. District generates taxes from three sources: property

12. Private Donations
A municipality may use private donations from a business or individual to finance park construction operations, or maintenance. This donation could also be in the form of land.
13. Joint Use Agreement – Cost Sharing
The City of Port Aransas could also enter into a Joint Use or Cost Sharing agreement. A simple arrangement might include the City offering to construct a facility and another member of the agreement maintaining the facility. This type of agreement can be used for utility agreements, parking agreements, etc. and is fairly typical with entities such as churches and schools.
14. Local Sports Organizations
As part of a use agreement, many local sports organizations provide maintenance, program organization, and upkeep of City owned park facilities in return for the opportunity to use the facility.
15. Privately Managed Enterprises
Private businesses may contract with the City to run recreational based programs sponsored by the City. These enterprises might also offer non-city sponsored activities that serve recreation needs of the City.

16. CDBG Funding

Begun in 1974, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is one of the oldest programs in HUD. The primary purpose of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is the development of viable urban communities by providing decent housing or suitable living environments and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate income. It is sponsored by the US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) and administered through the State of Texas. Funding may be applied to public facility and park enhancements.

17. Hotel Motel Tax Revenue

When a tax is imposed by a city, it applies only to those hotels and motels located within the corporate boundaries of that city. The

hotel/motel tax rate is 1 - 7 percent. The tax is imposed on the gross receipts from the renting of any and all sleeping rooms, apartments, or sleeping quarters in any hotel, motel, inn, public lodging house, rooming house, tourist court, bed-and-breakfast or in any place where sleeping accommodations are furnished to transient guests for rent when contracted for periods of less than 31 consecutive days.

The tax base must include the entire cost related to the rental of the room. If a person is charged for other items when renting a room, the charges must be stated separately or the entire amount will be subject to the hotel/motel tax.

Ten-Year Action Plan

The ten-year action plan as identified below is meant to be an aid for developing fiscal budgets over the next ten years. Only the High Priority items are addressed in this action plan. It is recommended that, as High Priority items are accomplished, the action plan be updated to include items that currently exist on the Moderate Priority list.

HIGH PRIORITY ITEMS			
Facility	Location	Budget Estimate	Year to Be Expended
1 Hike/Bike Trail	Nature Preserve and throughout the town	5' Decomposed Granite - \$40,000 / linear mile 8' Concrete Trail - \$125,000 linear mile	2006/7
2 Natural Open Spaces	Nature Preserve	\$2,000,000	2006/7
3 Fishing Access Areas	Nature Preserve Roberts Point Park	Piers – 50,000 - \$200,000	2008
4 Picnic Shelters /Pavilions	Throughout old and new parks	15,000 - \$100,000	2007/8
5 Skate Park	Community Park	\$80,000 – \$500,000	2006/2007

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