



Parks Master Plan

2005-2010

1. INTRODUCTION

The City of Copperas Cove has an ongoing process for expanding the range of recreation opportunities for its citizens. Even as previously identified needs have been addressed, changing times have caused the City to reconsider its priorities and to expand the scope of its planning to include a broader range of facilities. Where previous planning efforts focused mainly on parks and to a lesser extent on open spaces, this updated plan also addresses needs for indoor recreation. Indeed, when citizens were surveyed in November 2003, the results showed that indoor recreation needs have become paramount. Likewise, community interest in conservation and preservation of natural areas has risen with open space plans joining with traditional recreation needs among the priorities for the City's parks. For this reason, the title of this document has been changed to "*Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space,*" and its scope has been expanded to include both indoor recreation and open space plans.

This document updates and replaces the 1996 plan for Parks and Open Spaces -- a follow up to the City's 1995 Comprehensive Plan, which dealt with more general land use issues. It describes the process by which the update was developed, and presents the resulting new ordering of recreation priorities.

This plan takes effect in November 2005 and extends to December 2010. It will be reviewed annually and updated as required.

1.A. LOCATION AND HISTORY

The City of Copperas Cove is located in southern Coryell County, adjacent to Fort Hood at the intersection of U.S. Highway 190 and Farm Road 116, twenty-four miles southwest of Gatesville.

From the Handbook of Texas Online (edited for brevity):

Copperas Cove, once spelled Coperas Cove, began in the 1870s as a rural community centered around a small store about two miles southwest of the present townsite. Late that decade residents of the area applied for a post office under the name Cove, but postal authorities rejected the name because a Texas post office by that name already existed. The name Coperas Cove was then submitted, inspired by the mineral taste of the water in a nearby spring. The Coperas Cove post office was established in March 1879 with Marsden Ogletree as postmaster.

A feeder route of the Chisholm Trail passed through Coperas Cove, making the cattle industry of primary importance to the local economy. When the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railway built its track across the southern corner of Coryell County in 1882, residents of Coperas Cove moved their community two miles to the northeast in order to take better advantage of the rail service. By 1884 the town had a steam gristmill-cotton gin, five general stores, a hotel, and 150 residents. By the mid-1890s the population had risen to 300, and residents had voted to form their own school district. Although cattle production continued to be important to the local economy, area farmers began to devote more of their resources to the production of cotton, small grains, and feed crops, and by 1900 farming was the dominant occupation.

The spelling of the community's name was officially changed in 1901; at that time Copperas Cove had an opera house, three hotels, and a variety of businesses. A local private bank opened in 1906. By the time residents elected their first mayor in 1913, the population had grown to 600. The number of residents continued to increase through the 1920s, to a high of 650 in 1929. Copperas Cove began to decline with the onset of the

Great Depression in the early 1930s. The local bank failed, several businesses closed, and many people left to look for work in other areas. By the 1940s only 356 residents remained.

Copperas Cove received a much-needed boost in the early 1940s, when the United States government chose southeastern Coryell and northwestern Bell counties as the site for Camp Hood, a new military training center. By 1950 when Fort Hood opened, the community had grown to 1,052 residents, and the city limit was extended southwest into Lampasas County. The population was estimated at 4,567 in 1960, at 10,818 in 1970, and at 19,469 in 1980. Most of the new residents were either attracted by the job opportunities associated with Fort Hood or chose to remain in the area after retirement from the military. By 1990 Copperas Cove had several manufacturing establishments, a wide variety of businesses, a hospital, and a population of 24,079.

1.B. CITY GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION AND GOALS

Copperas Cove is run by a team of professionals directed by an elected city council. The mayor and seven council members are elected to three-year terms and can serve two consecutive terms. The city manager, city secretary, city judge, and city attorney are all appointed by the council and work for them.

The council meets in regular session every first and third Tuesday at 7 p.m. in council chambers at the municipal building at 507 S. Main St. Agendas are available at the Copperas Cove Public Library and on the City's web site www.ci.copperas-cove.tx.us . All City Hall offices can be reached by calling 254/547-4221.

The City Council has identified the top 10 goals for the community, shown below. Goal 5 indicates a need for expanded parks and recreation programs. The *Master Plan for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space* directly addresses this need, and indirectly addresses Goals 8.

City of Copperas Cove City Council Top 10 Goals

- Goal 1: Ensure Continued Quality Public Safety
- Goal 2: Improve and expand Infrastructure
- Goal 3: Promote Economic Development Activities
- Goal 4: Continue Support of Combined Image Campaign
- Goal 5: Expand Parks and Recreation Programs
- Goal 6: Retain and Attract Quality People
- Goal 7: Enhance Solid Waste Program
- Goal 7A: Facilitate and Exercise Fiscal Responsibility
- Goal 8: Support Non-Municipal Youth Programs
- Goal 9: Maintain or Reduce the Property Tax Rate
- Goal 10: Improve Land Developer Relations

1.C. ECONOMY

Copperas Cove, part of the Killeen-Temple MSA, is part of one of the fastest growing economic centers in the State of Texas.

From the Copperas Cove Chamber of Commerce:

“Located just off the high-tech corridor between Dallas and Austin, Copperas Cove is rapidly becoming the preferred location for back office, light industries, and retail operations. Its one-hour proximity to Austin makes Copperas Cove an ideal location for expanding high-tech companies and their suppliers.

Copperas Cove’s most valuable asset is the availability of a well-educated, highly skilled workforce with a strong work ethic. Approximately 8,000-9,000 highly disciplined personnel exit from Fort Hood each year and enter the workforce. Additionally there is an abundance of underemployed military dependents and spouses, ready and willing to work.

Wage rates fall below national and state norms. The labor force possesses skills and education levels that are easily transferred to other pursuits.

Popular skills include communications, electronics, supply, warehousing, logistics, transportation, medical specialties and aviation/avionics. Foreign language skills differentiate this workforce and give the MSA an advantage. It is a labor force that is dependable and reliable.”

1.D. AREA INFRASTRUCTURE

HIGHWAYS:

In effort to reduce congestion along US Highway 190 through Copperas Cove, Transportation officials, at the Texas Department of Transportation, are continuing plans for a US Highway 190 reliever route around the southern portion of Copperas Cove. The reliever route will not only reduce congestion through Copperas Cove, but will also improve accessibility to nearby medical facilities as well as improve mobility for Fort Hood soldiers. Eventually, the reliever route will connect to the Killeen bypass loop (Stan Schleuter Loop), thereby providing quick and easy access to the newly opened joint use regional airport located in Killeen and on West Fort Hood.

The \$72 million, 6.2 mile, proposed roadway would alleviate traffic volumes along the existing US Highway 190, the only east-west artery serving Coryell and Lampasas counties.

The reliever route, stretching from just east of the Copperas Cove city limits to just west of FM 2657, will be a four-lane, controlled-access roadway with a wide median.

BUSINESS PARK:

The Copperas Cove Economic Development Corporation has acquired property to be developed into a second business park. The approximately 100-acre tract of land, just inside the proposed reliever route on the southeast side of the city, will be developed in the early 2000s, according to a master plan, and will be marketed to targeted industries.

In addition, the corporation has constructed a 40,000 square foot speculative building in the business park.

WATER, WASTEWATER, DRAINAGE, ELECTRICAL SERVICE, GAS, SOLID WASTE:

These are all described in the Comprehensive Plan.

1.E DEMOGRAPHICS

This basic socioeconomic data for Copperas Cove is taken from Census 2000 (American Fact Finder) and from www.city-data.com.

Population: Individuals: 29,592
- Males: 49.5%
- Females: 50.5%

Households: 10,273
- With children under 18: 63.7%
- Married living together: 78.1%
- Female head of house: 9.8%
- Non families: 21.9%
- Individuals: 16.7%

Average household size: 2.85
Average family size: 3.19

Unemployed: 7.6%

Age: Median resident age (years) 26.9
Under 5 years 10.2%
5 to 9 years 8.8%
10 to 14 years 8.2%
15 to 19 years 8.0%
20 to 24 years 11.0%
25 to 29 years 9.7%
30 to 34 years 8.2%
35 to 39 years 8.2%
40 to 44 years 7.3%
45 to 49 years 5.2%
50 to 54 years 4.1%
55 to 59 years 3.4%
60 to 64 years 2.8%
65 to 69 years 2.0%
70 to 74 years 1.3%
75 to 79 years 0.9%
80 to 84 years 0.4%
85 to 89 years 0.3%
90 years + 0.2%

Income: Median household income: \$37,869
Median income for families: \$40,517
Per capita income: \$15,995

Poverty: Individuals below poverty line: 9.6%
 Under 18: 14.7%
 Over 65: 5.9%
 Families below poverty line: 8.1%

Housing: Units: 11,120
 Occupied: 10,373
 Owner Occupied: 5,568
 Median house value: \$72,600

Ethnicity: White Non-Hispanic 60.6%
 Black 20.4%
 Hispanic 11.7%
 Two or more races 5.1%
 Other race 5.0%
 American Indian 1.8%
 Korean 1.1%
 Native Hawaiian and
 Other Pacific Islander 0.6%
 Filipino 0.6%

(NOTE: Total is greater than 100% because Hispanics could be counted in other races)

Ancestries: German 18.4%
 Irish 10.3%
 United States 8.4%
 English 6.5%
 Italian 3.2%
 French 2.6%

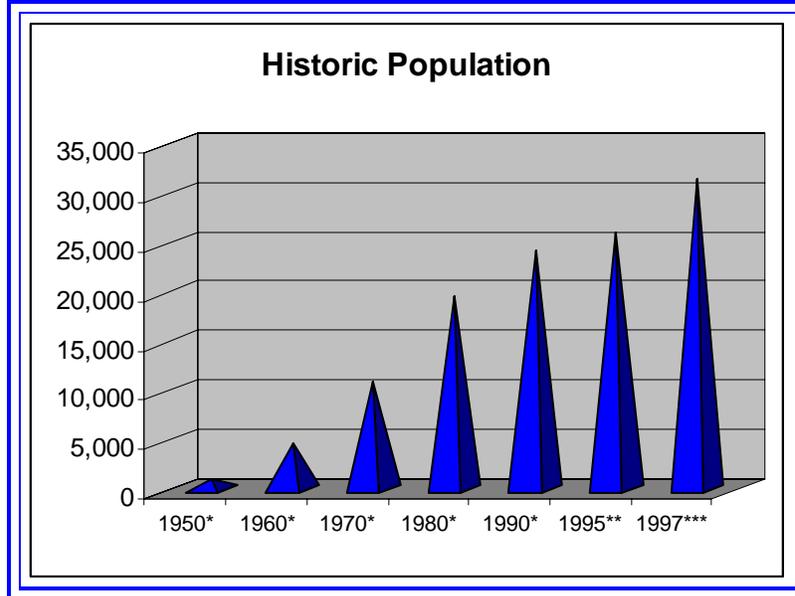
Education: High school or higher: 91.6%
 Bachelor's degree or higher: 17.1%
 Graduate or professional: 5.4%

Marital: Never married: 20.4%
 Now married: 64.0%
 Separated: 2.6%
 Widowed: 3.0%
 Divorced: 10.0%

(For population 15 years and over)

1.F. POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Copperas Cove resides in Coryell County and belongs to the Killeen-Temple MSA. By compiling population figures from several sources, it is possible to get a sense of the historical rate of population growth.



* Source: U.S. Census.

** Source: 1995 Comprehensive Plan (January 1, 1995).

*** Source: 1997 County Records

Though there are no scientific population projections available for Copperas Cove *per se*, it is possible to gain a perspective on population trends for the City from projections for the County and MSA made by the Population Estimates and Projections Program, Texas State Data Center. For details on the methodology and reason for the use of scenario 0.5, please see Appendix B.

According to these projections, Coryell County population growth is 9.6% for the 2000-2005 period and 9.0% for 2005-2010. Growth for the Killeen-Temple MSA is 9.2% for 2000-2005 and 7.9% for 2005-2010. If the growth rate for Copperas Cove can be assumed to be typical of its county and MSA, then its growth rate can be calculated to be 9.4% for 2000-2005 and 8.5% for 2005-2010.

Based on the US Census population figure for Copperas Cove, given as 29,592 in American Factfinder, the above growth rates suggest a population of 32,373 in 2005 and 35,124 in 2010. This represents the addition of 2781 individuals for 2000-2005 and 2751 for 2005-2010, totaling 5535 additional individuals for 2000-2010.

**Population 2000 and Projected Population 2005-2040
by Race/Ethnicity and Migration Scenario for
Coryell County**

SCENARIO 0.5

YEAR	TOTAL	ANGLO	BLACK	HISPANIC	OTHER
2000	74,978	46,287	16,723	9,424	2,544
2005	82,187	49,643	18,332	11,165	3,047
2010	89,607	52,872	19,944	13,134	3,657
2015	97,306	56,036	21,604	15,286	4,380
2020	105,154	59,004	23,233	17,687	5,230
2025	112,838	61,654	24,757	20,269	6,158
2030	119,944	63,715	26,121	22,966	7,142
2035	126,416	65,215	27,325	25,685	8,191
2040	131,980	66,171	28,235	28,363	9,211

**Population 2000 and Projected Population 2005-2040
by Race/Ethnicity and Migration Scenario for
Killeen-Temple MSA**

SCENARIO 0.5

YEAR	TOTAL	ANGLO	BLACK	HISPANIC	OTHER
2000	312,952	185,220	66,523	49,125	12,084
2005	341,797	194,090	74,692	58,257	14,758
2010	368,920	200,481	82,635	68,169	17,635
2015	395,174	204,907	90,832	78,678	20,757
2020	420,920	207,750	98,858	90,132	24,180
2025	446,652	209,835	106,529	102,427	27,861
2030	471,280	211,000	113,341	115,175	31,764
2035	493,878	210,520	119,394	128,069	35,895
2040	513,819	208,227	124,485	140,948	40,159

Projections of the Population of Texas and Counties in Texas by Age, Sex and Race/Ethnicity for 2000-2040 produced by Population Estimates and Projections Program, Texas State Data Center, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas A&M University System and The Center for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research and Education, Department of Rural Sociology, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas A&M University System in the Office of the State Demographer, State of Texas, Dec 2001.

1.G. TERRAIN AND WILDLIFE

Copperas Cove is located on the edge of the Texas Hill Country in the cross timbers region. Its vegetation resembles that of the Edwards Plateau. There are about 33 species of native trees, including pecan, red cedar, mesquite, bur oak, live oak, red oak, and cedar elm. Native grasses include Blue Gramma, Red Gramma, Buffalo, Common Curly Mesquite Grass, and some inland salt grasses. Limestone is the primary stratum in the area and occasional outcroppings produce shallow soil areas. Soils are typical of the Great Plains area.

The endangered black capped vireo nests in nearby brushland areas that have small trees. Whooping cranes have been seen in the area as they migrate to the Texas Coast. Other endangered or threatened species that may occur in Coryell County include the bald eagle, interior least tern, Concho water snake, Texas horned lizard, and Arctic peregrin falcon.

2. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of Copperas Cove's recreation service is to provide a diverse selection of recreational opportunities for its citizens. By providing a range of recreation facilities, the City aims to serve the recreation needs of all segments of the community. The goals are set forth in the following list.

Goal 1: Provide for the long-term open space and recreational needs of the City

Objectives:

- Revise and adopt a Master Plan that sets forth the desired standards for parks and open space, and for indoor and outdoor recreation facilities
- Develop and Construct a Regional Park that services a multi County Area and cooperates with other Public Entities.
- Develop a system of trails along creek corridors, rights-of-way and, if necessary, along street corridors to provide pedestrian and bicycle linkages between neighborhoods and other areas of the City
- Encourage development of parks within areas of the City that are not currently served by park or open space facilities
- Recognize and utilize the assets available within the City when selecting park locations
- Establish an implementation plan that addresses needs for parks, open spaces, indoor and outdoor recreation facilities
- Ensure that every neighborhood has a neighborhood park

Goal 2: Initiate and/or continue a cooperative program with the Copperas Cove Independent School District and the Fort Hood U.S. Army Base with respect to parks and recreational facilities

Objectives

- Coordinate park acquisition and development with the Copperas Cove Independent School District
- Continue cooperative development of sites when advantageous to all public entities
- Coordinate development of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities with the Copperas Cove Independent School District and Ft. Hood.

Goal 3: Provide within the park and recreation system facilities that will respond to needs of all age and ability groups

Objectives

- Determine what facilities are needed through the needs analysis phase during the preparation of the Master Plan for Park, Recreation, and Open Space
- Determine what recreational activities other groups are providing, and the types of programs currently being offered
- Continue to develop park and recreational facilities that accommodate the special needs of physically challenged individuals.

Goal 4: Acquire and develop a large Regional Park that will service a Multi County Area and provide unique services and facilities in conjunction with other governmental agencies and Ft. Hood

Objectives

- Acquire location indicated on the Site Plan along US 290
- Develop a phased project timeline that will include both Indoor and Outdoor Projects
- Coordinate walking and thoroughfare efforts with TxDot to ensure safe and effective trails
- Develop a grant process that sets goals and deadlines for applications to the Parks and Wildlife Department and other relevant entities
- Develop a system for encouraging area residents to utilize facilities
- Develop an expedited Construction Schedule to ensure rapid progress and cost efficiencies
- Incorporate and connect the large park to as many areas of the City as possible with pedestrian and bicycle pathways/trails.

NOTE: In the City's planning system, youth-related needs are handled separately from parks, recreation, and open space. For this reason, goals regarding facilities for at-risk youth are not listed here. However, they are taken into consideration in the planning of major projects, along with infrastructure, access, etc.

3. PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

3.A. DEVELOPMENT OF THE ORIGINAL PLAN

In 1995, the City developed a Comprehensive Master Plan that included a section on Parks and Open Space that became the foundation for developing local recreation facilities. This plan was created by a Steering Committee comprised of members of the City Council, Planning and Zoning Commission, business leaders, and citizens selected "at Large" from the community. The planning documents were prepared by J. Duncan and Associates of Dallas, Texas in conjunction with the Hogan Corporation, consulting engineers, also of Dallas.

This Committee met numerous times and held public meetings for input. A public hearing was held on June 23, 1997 and the plan was amended in 1998.

In 2004 the Council held several workshops and commissioned a broad survey to identify needs for the City's Parks and Open Space. The Plan was compiled by Dr. Charles Wadkins in 2004 prior to the updated procedures from Texas Parks and Wildlife.

3.B. PROGRESS TOWARD ORIGINAL PLAN

In the "Future Needs" section, the plan calls for the construction of various types of parks, estimating that the City would need between 150 and 200 additional acres of parks and open space (community and neighborhood parks) in the next 10 years. Since then, the City has acquired an additional 233.13 acres. 200 acres were added to the original 18 acres at Ogletree Gap Preserve bringing that total to 218 acres; an increase at South Park from 4 acres to 25 acres; 2.721 acres of land has been acquired in the Ogletree III development and 15.41 acres of land in House Creek North development. Development is underway on the hike and bike trail on the west side of South Park in Walker Place development. When completed the trail will be approximately .8 mile.

The acreage at Ogletree Gap Preserve is primarily for open space. Improvements to the area include a large 50' x 140' covered pavilion with restrooms and serving area and improvements to the parking area. The South Park addition allows for a linear green belt with hike and bike trail, picnic area, and playscape. The two other pieces of land are undeveloped at this time but should provide space for small neighborhood parks and trails in these new subdivisions.

New programs created include a fall youth soccer program, adult co-rec softball, adult co-rec soccer program, Start Smart program for pre-schoolers, spring break and summer camps for youth, summer soccer camp, summer track program, adult weekly seminars, summer concert series, senior center recreation programs, adult travel programs, adult water aerobic program, adult exercise programs, youth tennis program, bicycle moto cross (BMX) program, lifeguard certification, karate, Bunco, book review club, Red Hatters adult group, junior golf academy, partnership with YMCA for a skate park and Senior Games training and competition.

RECREATION DEMAND PER DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Activity/Facility	Recommended Standard	Current Facilities	Units for 31,000 Pop.	Units for 42,000 Pop.
Basketball (outdoor)	1 per 5,000 persons	2	6	8
Tennis Courts	1 per 2,000 persons	5	16	21
Lighted Baseball/ Softball	1 per 4,000 persons	4	7	11
Football	1 per 20,000 persons	1	1	2
Adult Softball	1 per 4,000 persons	2	7	2
Soccer	1 per 4,500 persons	2	8	9
Volleyball Court	1 per 5,000 persons	4	6	8
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000 persons	3	1	2
Trails	1 per drainage basin	1	3	3
Recreation Center+	1 per 25,000 persons	0	1	1
Playground	1 per 4,000 persons	6	7	11

+ The City has a small Activity Center of less than 5000 square feet

3.C. PROCESS FOR UPDATING THE PLAN

Because considerable progress had been made toward the objectives set in the 1996 Plan for Parks and Recreation, in 2003 the City began a reassessment of recreation priorities aimed at updating the plan. This process began with a Town Hall meeting held on November 18, 2003 to identify potential improvements and again on November 15, 2005.

At the meeting, needs identified by the participants were (in no particular order):

- Larger senior center
- Commercial kitchen
- More parks and recreation facilities
- Lighted practice fields
- Parks for new housing divisions
- Additional park staff
- Walking trail
- Indoor pool and walking track
- Winter baseball

Some of these have already been addressed. For instance the Parks and Recreation staff met with representatives of a group of parents that wanted winter baseball. The program was developed and registration was offered. However, there was not enough interest to create a league.

Survey

During the month of October of 2005, a program survey was conducted. Survey questionnaires were distributed throughout the community. Surveys were also available at the Turkey Creek Activity Center, City Hall, and the Public Library. Overall 137 surveys were returned.

The Survey was broken down into two sections. The first half of the survey asked the residents to score various outdoor activities that have been identified as important to the community. The second half of the survey applied the same procedure for indoor activities.

Outdoor Priorities

- Outdoor Swimming Pool
- Soccer and Multi-Use Fields
- Playground Equipment
- Outdoor Lighting
- Softball/Baseball Fields
- Picnic Tables
- Volleyball Courts
- Walking Trails

Indoor Priorities

- Indoor Pool
- Weight Training/Cardio Equipment
- Elevated Walking Trail
- Indoor Sports Courts
- Racquetball
- Senior Center
- Hot Tub/Sauna
- Game Room
- Arts and Crafts Center
- Indoor Rock Climbing

4. AREA AND FACILITY CONCEPTS AND STANDARDS

In general, the concepts and standards employed in this plan conform to the guidelines set out by the National Recreation & Park Association (*Park, Recreation, Open Space & Greenway Guidelines*, 2001.)

However, two factors warrant the adjustment of NRPA standards to better address the needs of the community. The first is the extreme summer heat, which prevents most citizens from taking part in high-energy outdoor sports during that part of the year. The second is proximity to Fort Hood, which increases the local population of active young adults.

5. INVENTORY OF AREAS AND FACILITIES

5.A. CITY PARKS

City Park Complex* (88 acres) 1202 W. Ave. B
 Highland Park (4 acres) 1203 Craig St.
 Heritage Park (7 acres) 1929 Pleasant Ln.
 Kate Street Park (23 acres) 603 Kate St.
 Ogletree Gap (218 acres) 1878 Post Office
 South Park (21 acres) 2602 Dennis Dr.
 Turkey Creek Activity Center 1408 Golf Course Rd.

* Also located in the Main Park Complex at 1202 W. Ave. B is Fester's House, a pavilion, and an R.V. Park. South Park at 2602 Dennis Dr. does have a Hike/Bike Trail.

CONDITION OF EXISTING FACILITIES

Park/Facility	City Park	Highland Park	Heritage Park	Kate Street Park	Ogletree Gap	South Park
Turf	1	1	1	1	1	1
Irrigation	3	3	4	4	4	3
Plantings/trees	2	2	2	3	4	2
Drainage	4	2	2	0	0	4
Accessibility	2	2	2	2	2	2
Parking	1	1	2	2	1	4
Parking-Avail	2	2	2	2	2	4
Walks/paths	2	2	2	2	2	2
Swimming pool	N	5	N	N	N	N
Basketball courts	2	N	N	N	N	N
Baseball fields	2	N	N	N	N	N
Tennis courts	N	N	N	N	N	3

These ratings were made by Ken Wilson, Director of Community Services on August 23, 2004. Mr. Wilson may be contacted at (254) 547-2719.

5.B. OTHER FACILITIES

The public schools within Copperas Cove have a few facilities that are available to the general Public with respect to park/recreational facilities. There are seven elementary schools within the City, and each campus has limited playground equipment (e.g., climbers, swings, slides and timber structures) with some open field space, and three sets of tennis courts. There are two intermediate schools that have ball field backstops. The junior high school campus has a track that can be utilized by the general public in the evening for recreational walking. The stadium is used occasionally for youth football championship games, and two gymnasiums are made available to citizens for youth basketball for four months during the winter time.

6. NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND IDENTIFICATION

This plan utilizes the DEMAND-BASED method of determining recreation needs. Because considerable progress had been made toward the objectives set in the 1996 Comprehensive Master Plan, in 2003 the City conducted a reassessment of recreation priorities aimed at updating that part of the plan.

Current (2003) utilization statistics are listed below:

1. Multi-purpose sports recreation complex (large park), including lighted sports facilities (e.g., ballfields, soccer fields, etc.) for adult and youth softball, soccer and hardball leagues, and an aquatic center/swimming pool

Status: A large *Regional Park* has been planned and will be proposed as a grant project to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

2. Youth programs and activities (e.g., boys/girls/teen club or youth center)

Status: Both the Indoor and Outdoor priorities have special areas designated for youth programs including a youth activity center in the proposed Indoor Recreation Center.

3. Maintenance and improvement of City Park

Status: Numerous areas have been addressed and improved. Several improvements are recommended for FY 2006.

4. Senior citizens' center

Status: A new Senior Citizens' Center has been designed as part of the proposed Indoor Recreation Center.

5. Basketball courts for all age groups (indoor and outside)

Status: Only two courts are available, located in City Park. New Courts are currently being proposed.

6. Hike and bike trails

Status: Land has been acquired and development is underway as part of the new Regional Park Facility

7. Racquetball courts

Status: Racquetball Courts have been included as part of the preliminary plans for the proposed Indoor Recreation Facility.

Participation Rates for Copperas Cove Recreation Facilities

Start Smart (ages 3 to 8 years):

Fall:	28 participants
Spring:	25 participants

Flag Football (grades 1 through 4): 264 participants

Tackle Football (CCYRC) (grades 3 through 6): 240 participants

Cheerleading (CCYRC) (ages 6 through 12) 120 participants

Youth Soccer (Fall season)

Co-Rec. (ages 4 to 6 years)	101 participants
Co-Rec. (ages 7 to 8 years)	90 participants
Co-Rec. (ages 9 to 10 years)	92 participants
Co-Rec. (ages 11 to 12 years)	30 participants
Total:	313 participants

Youth Soccer (Spring season)

Co-Rec. (ages 4 to 6 years)	132 participants
Co-Rec. (ages 7 to 8 years)	120 participants
Co-Rec. (ages 9 to 10 years)	122 participants
Co-Rec. (ages 11 to 12 years)	48 participants
Total:	422 participants

Soccer Camp (Summer) 22 participants

Youth Baseball (Spring season)

ages 4 to 6 years	124 participants
ages 7 to 8 years	145 participants
ages 9 to 10 years	121 participants
ages 11 to 12 years	104 participants
ages 13 to 14 years	90 participants
ages 15 to 18 years	98 participants
Total:	682 participants

Youth Baseball (Summer season)

ages 4 to 6 years	79 participants
ages 7 to 8 years	82 participants
ages 9 to 10 years	84 participants
ages 11 to 12 years	65 participants
ages 13 to 14 years	48 participants
ages 15 to 18 years	72 participants
Total:	430 participants

Youth Softball (Spring season)

Ages 4 to 6 years	58 participants
Ages 7 to 8 years	55 participants
Ages 9 to 12 years	75 participants
Ages 13 to 14 years	52 participants
Total:	240 participants

Youth Tennis (Spring)

Grades 1 through 8 18 participants

Youth Tennis (Fall)

Grades 1 through 8 42 participants

Golf (Hills of Cove Course) 28,973 rounds

Jr. Golf Academy (Summer) 24 participants

City Swimming Pools:

Summer: 100 avg. daily attendance (70-day season):	7,000	participants
Swimming lessons:	393	participants
Total	7,393	participants

7. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND PRIORITIZATION OF NEEDS

Taking into account the results of the Town Meeting and the community survey, the City has determined that its priorities for recreation facilities are as follows:

Outdoor Priorities

- **Regional Park Including:**
 - Soccer and Multi-Use Fields
 - Softball/Baseball Fields
 - Outdoor Lighting
 - Playground Equipment
 - Picnic Tables
 - Volleyball Courts
 - RV Park
- **Walking Trails**
- **Frisbee Golf**
- **Renovation of Existing Facilities**

Indoor Priorities

- Indoor Pool
- Elevated Walking Trail
- Game Room
- Arts and Crafts Center
- Weight Training/Cardio Equipment
- Indoor Sports Courts
- Racquetball
- Senior Center
- Hot Tub/Sauna
- Indoor Rock Climbing

Outdoor Priorities



Regional Park

Soccer and Multi-Use Fields

Softball/Baseball Fields

Outdoor Lighting

Playground Equipment

Picnic Tables

Volleyball Courts

RV Park

Walking Trails

Frisbee Golf

Renovation of Existing Facilities



Regional Park Site Plan

Indoor Priorities

Indoor Recreation Center

A state of the art Indoor Recreation Center will be located on the site of the Copperas Cove Regional Park. The Center will provide many first time services to the area such as convention facilities, art exhibit facilities and the first public exercise facilities in the City. Below is a 3D rendering of the 25,000 square foot project:



(3D Renderings of Preliminary Recreation Center Plans)

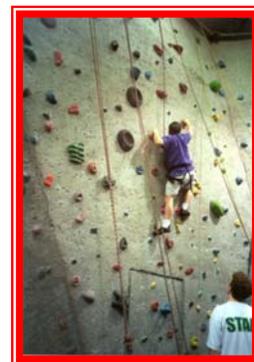
The City will design and construct the facility in cooperation with area businesses and foundations. In addition the City will seek to join with the local School District and Ft. Hood for interlocal uses such as youth and counseling programs, exhibits, and competitive sporting events.

This facility will provide the only indoor swimming and gathering facility in the City. The City will staff the facility and equip the rooms with exercise equipment, games and arts and crafts. In addition the entire facility will be wired to provide flexible audio/visual support for projectors, sound systems and other presentation formats.

Indoor Recreation Center



State of the Art Natatorium
8,000 convention area
Commercial Cooking Facilities
Exercise Room/Gym
Elevated walking Tract
Youth Activity
Game Room
Senior Activity Center
Audio/Visual facilities
Multi-Use meeting room(s)
Arts and Crafts Center



Indoor Recreation Center

Preliminary Plan

8. FUNDING

The City of Copperas Cove's approach to implementing the Master Plan for Recreation is to develop a strategy for securing monies from the annual budget, the approval and sale of bonds or warrants, and making applications for any applicable grants. Accomplishing what is needed for upgrading recreation facilities will likely occur over a period of time. It is expected that the *Parks Master Plan* will be reviewed annually and updated every five years. However, a reasonable goal to accomplish the priority listing would be three to five years.

The most effective method to use in developing this strategy will be a capital improvements program (CIP) just for recreation facilities. The CIP identifies projects, establishes their cost, prioritizes each project by need and year of completion, and identifies the sources of funding. This approach is designed to allow annual review and reassessment of projects to determine if rescheduling is needed due to changes in needs or funding. The program does make a statement of intent to accomplish improvements in an orderly manner as funds are foreseen to be available.

One vital component to the construction of the Plan will be the cooperation in both money and in-kind efforts from other public entities such as the School District, various Counties and the Ft. Hood Army Base. Copperas Cove will seek interlocal agreements to provide residents of such other entities with lower cost access to the facilities in exchange for up front financial contributions by the various entities.

The impact of the new Regional Park and Indoor Recreation Center is anticipated to have apposite economic impact on the City of Copperas Cove. As such, the City is studying the potential for reprogramming monies and increasing the Parks Budget to allow for construction and development in cooperation with the other entities.

9. ILLUSTRATIONS, MAPS, SURVEYS, ETC.

A photo tour of Copperas Cove parks is included as an Appendix.

The Results of the Survey are Included as an Appendix.

Updated by



On the plan created by
Charles E Watkins