

# PARKS, LINEAR GREENWAYS, AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES



This chapter contains goals, objectives, and action steps developed in a series of public meetings dealing with parks, linear greenways, and community facilities. Some of the priorities of this section of the plan deal with building new facilities, upgrading existing facilities, developing new strategies for personal improvement, and developing new and exciting youth involvement programs. These ideals will be accomplished through partnerships between community organizations, businesses, churches, and citizens.



## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES AT A GLANCE:**

**OVERALL GOAL:** Enhance the area’s parks, recreation, community facilities and programming to establish a regional draw with world-class amenities that meets the current and future needs of the Eastern Triangle

**Goal 17: Develop a system to ensure that the Eastern Triangle has the highest level of park facilities available**

Objective 17.1: Form a committee made of community members to implement the goals and objectives of the Parks, Linear Greenways, and Community Facilities chapter

Objective 17.2: Designate Martin Luther King Park as a “Destination Park” that will be the multi-sport complex for the region

Objective 17.3: Enhance existing park facilities

Objective 17.4: Identify maintenance issues, promote safety, and improve current parks

Objective 17.5: Utilize various methods to find funding for desirable park projects for the area

**Goal 18: Build a library within the Eastern Triangle with distinct areas that has the resources to address the needs of all ages from youth to adult**

Objective 18.1: Build a new public library in the Eastern Triangle

Objective 18.2: Promote library resources and services that assist adults in research and learning computer skills

**Goal 19: Create learning centers for people of all ages in the Eastern Triangle**

Objective 19.1: Expand workforce programs to teach vocational skills

Objective 19.2: Reutilize closed schools as learning centers and/or community centers

Objective 19.3: Provide free computer lessons for seniors

Objective 19.4: Establish practices that keep young people in school by developing more after school programs and options designed to involve young people in the organization and operation of the program to increase participation

**Goal 20: Incorporate neighborhood art and cultural activities**

Objective 20.1: Collaborate with the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) to provide and participate in more art and cultural activities in the Eastern Triangle

**Goal 21: Consolidate or create programs to better address the needs of the community effectively and efficiently**

Objective 21.1: Partner with different community organizations to collaborate and achieve goals

Objective 21.2: Promote the Eastern Triangle community events, activities, and programs

Objective 21.3: Seek funding for activities not organizations so that more programs can be offered

**Goal 22: Enhance County and City services to residents in the Eastern Triangle**

Objective 22.1: Create a “one-stop” service center for government services that includes a COSA Community Link Customer Service Center where residents can have access to city and county, and state services without going downtown

## Goal 17: Develop a system to ensure that the Eastern Triangle has the highest level of park facilities available

**Objective 17.1:** Form a committee made of community members to implement the goals and objectives of the Parks, Linear Greenways, and Community Facilities chapter

### Action Steps:

17.1.1. Establish an Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee

- Appoint leadership
- Craft a work program based on the plan's action steps
- Spearhead the implementation of the Parks and Recreation section of the Eastern Triangle Community Plan
- Seek affiliate group membership with the San Antonio Parks Foundation's Friends of the Parks to remain informed about park issues and developments in San Antonio
- Seek appointment or input to the District 2 appointee to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

*Timeline: Short (Immediate)*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Plan Implementation Team*

*Proposed Partnerships: San Antonio Parks Foundation*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/Volunteer*

**Friends of the Parks** - Friends of the Park, founded in 2003, was organized as a volunteer support organization for the San Antonio Parks System, which functions under the umbrella of the **San Antonio Parks Foundation**. The objective of Friends of the Parks is to broaden support for the public park system of San Antonio, to provide a stronger link between neighborhoods, individual citizens and the parks, and to create and renovate more park spaces for the enjoyment of all citizens. Friends of the Parks not only help protect and promote San Antonio's green spaces, but members also are a part of a dedicated team that works to keep city parks beautiful.

17.1.2. Provide input on park design and planning and identify ways for citizens to contribute input regarding park improvements and park bond money allocation

- Contact COSA Parks and Recreation and Bexar County Parks Section for future development and enhancement plans
- Utilize the COSA website to identify upcoming meetings about Park projects i.e. Salado Creek
- Work with the City's Parks and Recreation Department, the San Antonio Parks Foundation, Linear Creekway Parks Advisory Board, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and the National Park Service to identify funding sources to finance the group's activities

*Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

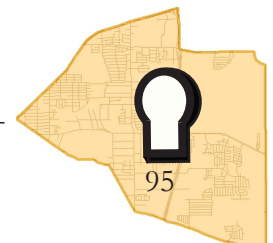
*Proposed Partnerships: COSA Parks and Recreation, Bexar County Parks, San Antonio Parks*

*Foundation, Texas Parks and Wildlife, National Park Service, Neighborhood associations*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/Volunteer*

17.1.3. Work closely with neighborhood associations to effectively sponsor community meetings on park improvements

- Neighborhood associations to sponsor marketing, food, and venue
- Coordinate scheduling, organizing, and contacting COSA representatives
- Cooperate with neighborhood associations to work out the details of workload on a meeting to meeting basis



- Seek neighborhood associations to sponsor Parks and Recreation education workshops with various topics such as: new park concepts, design ideas, amenities, landscaping with native plants, etc.

*Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: Neighborhood associations*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Neighborhood association, Minimal/Volunteer*

**Objective 17.2:** Designate Martin Luther King Park as a “Destination Park” that will be the multi-sport complex for the region

Note: Much of Martin Luther King Park is located within the floodplain which may limit developable area for structures.

### *Action Steps*

17.2.1. Establish Martin Luther King, Jr. Park as the base for a regional recreational and cultural facility

- Host annual, city-wide sports tournaments and 5K runs (See also Public Health, Objective 24.3)
- Establish COSA organized/sponsored sports teams

*Timeline: Short to Mid*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: COSA Parks and Recreation, Martin Luther King Academy, Non-profit organizations, Neighborhood associations*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Non-profit organizations, Private donations, Minimal/Volunteer*

17.2.2. Build a natatorium/swimming complex at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park with at least one indoor Olympic-size pool



An example of a natatorium desired in the Eastern Triangle.

- Serve a dual purpose as a professional training center and as a community swim facility
- Host city-wide and regional swim meets
- Petition Councilperson to add natatorium to Capital Improvements Schedule for the City of San Antonio

*Timeline: Mid to Long*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: COSA Parks and Recreation, COSA Capital Improvement Management Services, Martin Luther King Academy, SAISD, East Central ISD*

*Proposed Funding Sources: COSA General Fund, COSA Parks and Recreation Park Bonds, SAISD, East Central ISD, Private donations*

### 17.2.3. Install sand volleyball and softball complex at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park

- Model facilities similar to Time Warner Park
- Host tournaments against other leagues in the city

*Timeline: Short to Mid*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: COSA Parks and Recreation, Martin Luther King Academy*

*Proposed Funding Sources: COSA Parks and Recreation Park Bonds, SAISD, East Central ISD, Private donations, Volunteer*

### 17.2.4. Develop an area of Martin Luther King, Jr. Park for a Par 3 golfing/driving range/putting facility

- Consult with local and regional golfing programs for greens designs or maintenance procedures
- Contact Golf San Antonio to host The First Tee program
- Contact Roaring Lambs International Golf Academy for information on youth golfing opportunities and programs

*Timeline: Short to Mid*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: San Antonio Parks Foundation, Roaring Lambs International Golf Academy, local golf courses*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Local golf courses, COSA Park Bonds, Minimal/ Volunteer*



#### **First Tee of San**

**Antonio** - The First Tee of San Antonio is one Chapter of a national non-profit youth initiative called The

First Tee. The First Tee was created in 1997 by the World Golf Foundation to provide young people of all ethnic and economic backgrounds an opportunity to develop, through golf and character education, life-enhancing values such as honesty, integrity and sportsmanship.

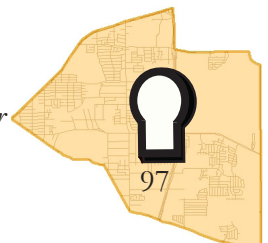


#### **Roaring Lambs**

**International Junior Golf Academy** - The

Roaring Lambs International Junior Golf

Academy was established in Dallas in 1986 as a charitable and educational organization, dedicated to encouraging the participation of multi-racial, inner-city youth in junior golf activities. This program operates year round, providing instruction and play for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. It has been the program's mission to use golf as a means of instilling self-discipline, honesty, commitment, integrity and proper manners in youth. In addition to the golf component of the program, they provide tutoring, health education, nutrition awareness and life skills training. Ms. Gladys Lee, founder, places a strong emphasis on instilling values such as honesty, integrity, patience, discipline and good sportsmanship. Roaring Lambs boast a multi-cultural and diverse socioeconomic membership where children learn to interact with people of all ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds while being taught the highest caliber of golf and valuable life skills. The program, which has received numerous awards and special recognition, is one of the best in the nation. <http://www.roaringlambs.org/>



17.2.5. Establish a trailhead/staging area for the Salado Creek Greenway at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park

- Allow for parking area near trailhead for ease of access
- Install bicycle racks for bicycle parking and security
- Coordinate with the Linear Creekway Parks Advisory Board

*Timeline: Short*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee, COSA Parks and Recreation, and Linear Creekway Parks Advisory Board*

*Proposed Partnerships: San Antonio Parks Foundation, MPO, Martin Luther King Academy*

*Proposed Funding Sources: COSA Parks and Recreation, Neighborhood Associations, Volunteer*

17.2.6. Establish a development plan for Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and the surrounding area as an update to the Martin Luther King Park Master Plan

- Use Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee to spearhead meetings, charettes, and concept planning sessions
- Invite area developers, District 2 Office, and neighborhood associations to community meetings to create clear lines of communication and a unified vision
- Work closely with COSA Parks and Recreation Department to implement a stepwise approach that realizes the full potential of the area
- Consistently communicate with neighborhood associations and churches for citizen feedback and progress updates

*Timeline: Immediate to Short and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: COSA Parks and Recreation*

*Proposed Funding Sources: COSA General Fund, COSA Parks and Recreation, Private donations*

**Objective 17.3:** Enhance existing park facilities

*Action Steps*

17.3.1. Review fee-in-lieu-of for parks and recommend changes to ordinance to ensure parkland is dedicated in needed areas

*Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: COSA Parks and Recreation, City Council, COSA Planning and Development Services*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/ Volunteer*

17.3.2. Develop a linear greenway along Rosillo Creek and preserve other natural areas around the Eastern Triangle

- Consult with the Linear Creekway Parks Advisory Board

*Timeline: Mid to Long*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: COSA Parks and Recreation, COSA Public Works, Neighborhood associations, Army Corps of Engineers*

*Proposed Funding Sources: COSA Park Bonds, COSA General Fund, Federal Grants*

17.3.3. Create a plan that places “action nodes” at trailheads where feasible to Salado Creek Greenway and other Eastern Triangle trails and greenways that are themed with various sporting activities

- Action nodes may include: Tennis courts, basketball courts, disc golf, tether ball, playground equipment, push-up, sit-up, stretching area, etc.
- Stations should be sponsored by local businesses or organizations who donate money or materials and participate in the maintenance for each station

*Timeline: Short to Mid and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: COSA Parks and Recreation, Non-profit organizations, Neighborhood associations, Local businesses*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Non-profit organizations, Private donations, Minimal/Volunteer*

17.3.4. Assess suitable park locations for a second public swim facility or splash pad in the area in addition to the one recommended for Martin Luther King Park

- Possible locations to consider include: Copernicus Park, Dellcrest Park, or W. W. White at Paula

*Timeline: Short*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: COSA Parks and Recreation*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal, Volunteer*



Public swim facilities provide an opportunity for outdoor recreation during the warm months of the year.

17.3.5. Upgrade existing sports facilities at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park using the newest available technology, techniques, and design


- Use recycled water system similar to irrigate area sports fields and proposed future golf facilities
- Resurface walking track, tennis and basketball courts with pervious materials to enhance drainage and decrease downtime after rain events
- Contact Nike Corp. ReUse-A-Shoe or similar program for feasible repavement options

*Timeline: Short to Mid*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

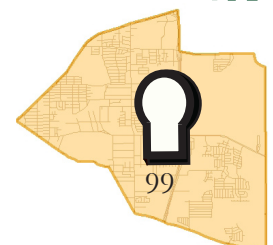
*Proposed Partnerships: COSA Parks and Recreation Department, San Antonio Parks Foundation, M.L.King Academy, National Recycling Coalition, Nike Corp*

*Proposed Funding Sources: COSA Parks and Recreation, Park Bonds, Non-profit organizations, Private donations*



**ReUSE A SHOE**

**Nike and NRC Re-use-A-Shoe Partnership**  
- Nike and the National Recycling Coalition (NRC) have partnered to bring the Reuse-A-Shoe program to select recycling organizations in the United States. The partnership provides community members an innovative approach to recycling athletic shoes and keeping them out of landfills. By participating in the program, you can offer your community members the opportunity to recycle more—and to do it in the way that works best for your community. You decide how to promote the program and collect the shoes. The program accepts all brands of athletic shoes, as long as they don't contain any metal (e.g., eyelets or cleats). Once you reach the 5,000 pair minimum, Nike will arrange for shipping and will recycle the shoes into Nike Grind. This unique ground-up material is then used to re-surface athletic fields, courts, tracks and playgrounds. <http://www.nrc-recycle.org/reuseashoe.aspx>





17.3.6. Ensure that fields, playgrounds, and applicable scenic areas are ADA compliant and accessible

- Check with the COSA Disability Access Office and/or the National Center on Accessibility for best practices for accessibility and Design for Inclusive Play

*Timeline: Short to Mid*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: COSA Parks and Recreation, San Antonio Parks Foundation, National Center for Accessibility, COSA Disability Access Office*

*Proposed Funding Sources: COSA Parks and Recreation, Park Bonds, Volunteer, Federal funding*

**Objective 17.4:** Identify maintenance issues, promote safety, and improve current parks

*Action Steps*

17.4.1. Create a dialogue with City and County Departments to:

- Create a reporting system for faulty or dangerous equipment
- Compile information on maintenance needs and turn them over to appropriate departments
- Use Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee as contact to city or county departments for maintenance schedules and concerns

*Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: Various COSA Departments*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Various COSA Departments, Local Businesses, Volunteer*

17.4.2. Use the Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee to organize community park clean-ups

- Pattern clean-up events like the “Basura Bash” that involves COSA Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Code Compliance, and Environmental Services
- Contact local businesses and organizations to participate by donating funds, supplies, and/or volunteers

*Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: Various COSA Departments, Neighborhood associations, Local businesses, and community organizations*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Local businesses, Community organizations, Neighborhood associations, Churches, Volunteer*

17.4.3. Utilize efficient lighting techniques that enhance the parks appearance and safety while avoiding light pollution

- Ensure that all park walkways are well lit at night

*Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: COSA Parks and Recreation*

*Proposed Partnerships: COSA Parks and Recreation, COSA Public Works, Local landscape architects/designers*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Park Bonds*

17.4.4. Promote community participation in the San Antonio Park Police's Park Watch Program

- Schedule a Park Watch Program presentation at neighborhood association meetings to enroll residents in this program which encourages residents to monitor and report safety issues in the community's parks, call (210) 207-8529 for more information
- Invite Community Operations/ Resource Education (C.O.R.E) officers from the Park Police to neighborhood association meetings to make public safety presentations that identify community concerns and quality of life issues while reducing the fear of crime

*Timeline: Short*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: SAPD, Neighborhood associations, East San Antonio Crime Coalition*

*Proposed Funding Sources: COSA Parks and Recreation, Volunteer*

**Community Operations Resource Education (CORE) -**

The CORE Unit is comprised of San Antonio Park Police Officers whose mission is to establish a relationship between the Park Police Division and the community it serves by working closely with staff at the Parks and Recreation Department's 27 community centers. At each community center the assigned CORE Officer will work closely with center staff to provide educational outreach on issues of public safety and to identify community concerns and quality of life issues while reducing the fear of crime. CORE Unit Officers are available upon request to make public safety presentations at community functions. They can be reached at 299-4641 or 207-8590.

17.4.5. Enhance park security by creating programs that keep the parks populated at all hours of park operation

- Request COSA Parks and Recreation Department to supply league coordinators who can manage teams and tournaments
- Participate in a Midnight Basketball program
- Research and implement a network of emergency call boxes in area parks

*Timeline: Short to Mid*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: San Antonio Parks Foundation, COSA Parks and Recreation, Local sport leagues, Local schools and churches, Neighborhood associations*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/ Volunteer*

**Objective 17.5:** Utilize various methods to find funding for desirable park projects for the area

Action Steps

17.5.1. Call COSA Parks and Recreation to locate available funds through Parks bonds and grants monitoring

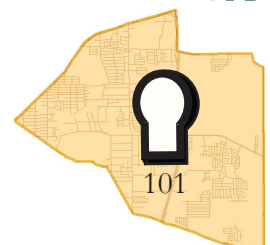
17.5.2. Partner with Bexar County to find available funds

17.5.3. Petition Councilperson for funding for specific projects

17.5.4. Research ways to acquire federal grant money for parkland and community improvements

17.5.5. Investigate options for the spending/implementation of the Bexar County Venue Tax revenue

17.5.6. Investigate establishing an organization that handles venture financing similar to programs in homeowners associations



*Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: COSA Parks and Recreation, Bexar County, City Council, Neighborhood associations*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/ Volunteer*

17.5.7. Recruit area organizations and local businesses to supply materials and volunteers for park improvement efforts

- Not-for-profit organizations such as the Lions Club, Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, Optimist Club, and Boy & Girls Clubs of San Antonio have reputations for helping community projects
- Petition local businesses and churches for donations in exchange for recognition including large corporations such as USAA and Valero who have donated both labor and funds for improvements in the past

*Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: Various community organizations, Local businesses, Neighborhood associations*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/ Volunteer*

17.5.8. Encourage development incentives for private sports and physical fitness facilities

- Establish a Tax Increment Re-investment Zone (TIRZ) to use private funds or taxes to fund area improvements
- Investigate options to entice local contractors and developers to participate in community park improvements

*Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: COSA Community Initiatives, COSA Housing and Neighborhood Services, Various community organizations, Local businesses, Neighborhood associations*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/ Volunteer*

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

### LIBRARIES

**Goal 18: Build a library within the Eastern Triangle with distinct areas that has the resources to address the needs of all ages from youth to adult**

**Objective 18.1:** Build a new public library in the Eastern Triangle

Action Steps:

18.1.1. Learn what criteria are considered for establishing a new branch library

18.1.2. Request a bond for construction of a new library in the Eastern Triangle

18.1.3. Attend and speak at Library Board of Trustee meetings to petition a new library



Design drawing for the Reagan Library.

Note: Library Board of Trustees meeting agendas are posted online and at all libraries.

18.1.4. Write a letter to the Library Director and the Library Board of Trustees to request library services or expansion

*Timeline: Mid to Long*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: San Antonio Library, Councilperson, Library Board of Trustees*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/Volunteer*

**Objective 18.2:** Promote library resources and services that assist adults in research and learning computer skills

*Action Steps:*

18.2.1. Invite Book Mobile to community activities at parks, after school programs, or senior centers

18.2.2. Request grants for more computers at the branch libraries to offer more computer training courses

18.2.3. Request for the purchase of more research books at the branch library

18.2.4. Utilize book requests to send books from other branch libraries to be delivered, picked-up, and returned to local branch library

18.2.5. Utilize Interlibrary Loan to borrow books not available at San Antonio libraries from other libraries outside of San Antonio or download digital books

18.2.6. Utilize Books-by-Mail services to request books be sent to homebound or physically disabled residents

18.2.7. Work with Region 20 Braille Specialists and the Lighthouse for the Blind to establish programs for the vision impaired and investigate funding for tools to help the visually-impaired.

*Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: San Antonio Library, COSA Parks and Recreation, COSA Community Initiatives, City Council, Library Board of Trustees, Neighborhood Associations, Churches, SAISD, East Central ISD, Lighthouse for the Blind, Region 20*

*Proposed Funding Sources: San Antonio Library, COSA Community Initiatives, General Fund, Library Bonds, Private and Public donations*

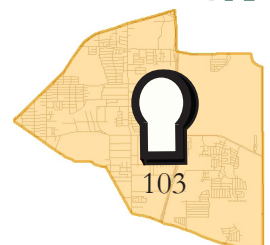
## LEARNING FACILITIES

**Goal 19: Create learning centers for people of all ages in the Eastern Triangle**

**Objective 19.1:** Expand workforce programs to teach vocational skills

*Action Steps:*

19.1.1. Coordinate with non-profit organizations such as the Bexar County Opportunities Industrialization Center, St. Philip's College, and others to offer more continuing education and vocational classes within the Eastern Triangle





*Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: Bexar County OIC, St. Philip's College/ ACCD, Workforce Solutions, Job Source, Various community organizations, Neighborhood associations*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/ Volunteer*

**Objective 19.2:** Reutilize closed schools as learning centers and/or community centers

See also Goal 25 in the Public Health and Wellness Chapter

*Action Steps:*

19.2.1. Contact SAISD to discuss leasing or selling closed area schools for the development of learning centers

19.2.2. Create a board or subcommittee to offer alternative uses for a closed school

*Timeline: Immediate to Long and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: COSA Office of Cultural Affairs, SAISD, Local businesses, Non-profit organizations, Churches*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal, Volunteer*

**Objective 19.3:** Provide free computer lessons for seniors

*Action Steps:*

19.3.1. Partner with City of San Antonio departments (Parks and Recreation, Department of Community Initiatives, and Library) to bring books, software, and computer learning services closer to the neighborhoods

*Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: COSA Library, COSA Parks and Recreation, COSA Community Initiatives, Neighborhood associations*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Various COSA Departments, Minimal/ Volunteer*

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

**Objective 19.4:** Establish practices that keep young people in school by developing more after school programs and options designed to involve young people in the organization and operation of the program to increase participation

See also Objective 10.2 in the Economic Development Chapter

*Action Steps:*

19.4.1. Create a Leadership Development Program

- Partner with local banks to teach financial literacy and financial management skills
- Work with local churches and community organizations to establish mentoring programs
- Invite guest speakers from the area and region to give presentations on a range of subjects
- Establish programs to teach life and independent living skills to prepare teenagers for future responsibilities

*Timeline: Short and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Neighborhood Associations*

*Proposed Partnerships: COSA Community Initiatives, Parks and Recreation, Office of Cultural Affairs, Leadership Institute of San Antonio, Area Chambers of Commerce, Boys and Girls Club, Neighborhood Associations*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal, Volunteer*

19.4.2. Work with local churches and community organizations in making youth outreach programs more appealing to youth

- Involve area youth in design, printing, and distribution of the flyers to be posted at area schools for marketing of current programs and events

*Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: Local churches, COSA Parks and Recreation, COSA Office of Cultural Affairs, SAISD, East Central ISD, Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), Neighborhood Associations, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal, Volunteer*

19.4.3. Collaborate with the Office of Cultural Affairs, schools, and neighborhood associations to participate in upcoming visual and performing art events to express their creativity through painting, poetry, singing, and dancing

- Arts programs may help to relieve youth stress and pressure to do drugs or join gangs
- Sponsor, promote, and participate in dance and cultural activities for the youth through cooperative efforts between COSA Cultural Affairs, Parks and Recreation, and neighborhood associations
- Contact the Carver Cultural Center for ideas for programs and funding
- Work with VIA to provide transportation to events

*Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Neighborhood Associations*

*Proposed Partnerships: COSA Office of Cultural Affairs, COSA Parks and Recreation Department, COSA Community Initiatives, SAISD, East Central ISD, Local non-profits, Local churches, Neighborhood associations, VIA*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal, Volunteer*

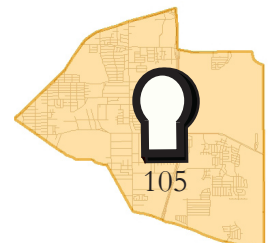
**COSA YO!** is the City of San Antonio Youth Opportunity Program. The focus of the YO Program under the umbrella of the Department of Community Initiatives, is to reengage disconnected youth. Participants in the program are provided essential services, support and training, allowing them to overcome possible barriers to education and employment. Contact Lynn Stewart, Social Services Manager. <http://www.sanantonio.gov/communit/yo/yomain.asp>

The **San Antonio Education Partnership**, through the use of scholarships and support systems, leverages educational achievement to increase graduation rates, college enrollment, and the development of human capital. <http://www.saedpartnership.org>

#### **AIE or Adventures in Education**

From college planning advice to financial aid information to career guidance, AIE has the reliable information students and parents need to make the right decisions for the future. Get FAFSA help and financial aid assistance, learn about college admissions, and search scholarships for free. <http://adventuresineducation.org>

**Council for South Texas Economic Progress or COSTEP**, in partnership with numerous Texas lending institutions, is an originator and Servicer of low interest, Federal Guaranteed student loans through the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFEL). This partnership allows us to offer students repayment rates that are among the lowest in the industry, yet offering the Academic Advantage Group™ (AAG) of Lenders premiums among the highest in the nation. Our dedication to the student loan industry remains focused on expanding access to higher education for students. <http://www.costep.org>



19.4.4. Utilize the Teen Services offered by the Central Library and participate in activities and programs geared toward teens

- Promote cyber cafes for youth extreme gaming
- Work with VIA and Central Library to target specific areas with advertising for the event and establish a “game night” bus event to the Central or branch libraries for teens to participate
- Use the Youth Wired website for the most current information: [www.youthwired.sat.lib.tx.us](http://www.youthwired.sat.lib.tx.us)

*Timeline: Short and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: COSA Library, VLA, Neighborhood associations*

*Proposed Funding Sources: COSA Library, VLA, Private donations*

19.4.5. Partner with community organizations and the COSA Parks and Recreation Department to provide more opportunity for youth to interact and compete with youth from other parts of the city

- Petition for more sports facilities for youth

*Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: COSA Parks and Recreation, SAISD, East Central ISD, City Council, Neighborhood Associations, Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, Coalition of Churches*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/Volunteer*

19.4.6. Enhance existing truancy programs to deter students from skipping school

- Contact Justice of the Peace to learn more about existing programs

*Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Neighborhood Associations*

*Proposed Partnerships: SAISD, East Central ISD, Bexar County, Justice of the Peace, Non-profit organizations, Neighborhood associations*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/Volunteer*

19.4.7. Encourage young people to work with non-profit organizations to create and expand community garden efforts in the area.

- Contact Green Spaces Alliance for information about organizing a new community gardens



*Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Neighborhood Associations*

*Proposed Partnerships: Green Spaces Alliance, Other non-profit organizations, Neighborhood associations*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/Volunteer*

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

### Goal 20: Incorporate neighborhood art and cultural activities

**Objective 20.1:** Collaborate with the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) to provide and participate in more art and cultural activities in the Eastern Triangle

Action Steps:

- 20.1.1. Ensure that community members are aware of the Office of Cultural Affairs activities and opportunities
- 20.1.2. Create a grant writing committee to request funding for Neighborhood Arts Program
- 20.1.3. Visit Office of Cultural Affairs website, [www.sahearts.com](http://www.sahearts.com), to learn more about the programs offered
- 20.1.4 Partner with Office of Cultural Affairs and City Council to request grant for public art at VIA bus stops

*Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: City Council, Office of Cultural Affairs, VIA*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/Volunteer*

## OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES

### Goal 21: Consolidate or create programs to better address the needs of the community effectively and efficiently

**Objective 21.1:** Partner with different community organizations to collaborate and achieve goals

Action Steps:

- 21.1.1. Create a unified community organization with representatives from local churches and neighborhood associations to work together
- 21.1.2. Create an email list so that churches and community organizations can share their programs and activities with other church congregations

*Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Plan Implementation Team*

*Proposed Partnerships: Plan Area Churches, Neighborhood Associations*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/Volunteer*

**Objective 21.2:** Promote the Eastern Triangle community events, activities, and programs

Action Steps:

- 21.2.1. Create a user-friendly Eastern Triangle website to share information regarding community events, activities, and programs

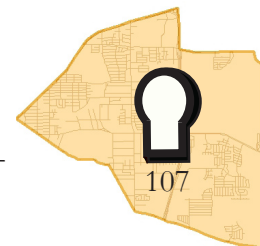
*Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: Eastern Triangle Economic Development Committee*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/Volunteer*

- 21.2.2. Establish a viable convention/meeting facility with a capacity to host approximately 1,000 or more people (See Action Step 7.2.4. in the Economic Development chapter)





*Timeline: Immediate and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Parks and Community Facilities Committee*

*Proposed Partnerships: Eastern Triangle Economic Development Committee, Chambers of Commerce, COSA Economic Development Department, COSA Convention and Visitors Bureau*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/Volunteer, Bond Program, Grant money*

**Objective 21.3:** Seek funding for activities not organizations so that more programs can be offered

*Action Step:*

21.3.1. Encourage City and County governments to establish a system for organizations to receive grant funding only if a plan has been prepared for the proposed program or activity

- Plans should provide for an element of Eastern Triangle community involvement

*Timeline: Short and Ongoing*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Plan Implementation Team*

*Proposed Partnerships: Eastern Triangle Marketing Committee, Council District 2, Bexar County*

*Proposed Funding Sources: Minimal/Volunteer*

**Goal 22: Enhance County and City services to residents in the Eastern Triangle**

**Objective 22.1:** Create a “one-stop” service center for government services that includes a COSA Community Link Customer Service Center where residents can have access to city and county, and state services without going downtown

**COSA Community Link Customer Service Centers** - Community Link

Service Centers have moved City Hall services closer to neighborhoods. Friendly, helpful City employees are ready and waiting to provide a wide variety of services or just help customers resolve important issues. The centers are open beyond normal business hours and on Saturday. For more information, call 311 or (210) 207-3312 or go to the website at: <http://www.sanantonio.gov/customer/>

Services offered at Customer Service Centers:

- Pay traffic tickets
- Buy garage sale permits
- Register Code Compliance complaints
- Request immunization records
- Get Birth and Death Certificates
- Obtain Building permits
- Check building plan and permit reviews
- Make park reservations
- View City job listings and obtain an application
- Purchase VIA Bus passes
- And much more!

*Action Steps:*

22.1.1. Investigate funding for this facility

22.1.2. Investigate possible locations for service center such as existing shopping centers for convenience

- Research Las Palmas shopping center on Castroville Road

22.1.3. Explore possible expansion and dual-use for existing county and/or city government buildings/offices

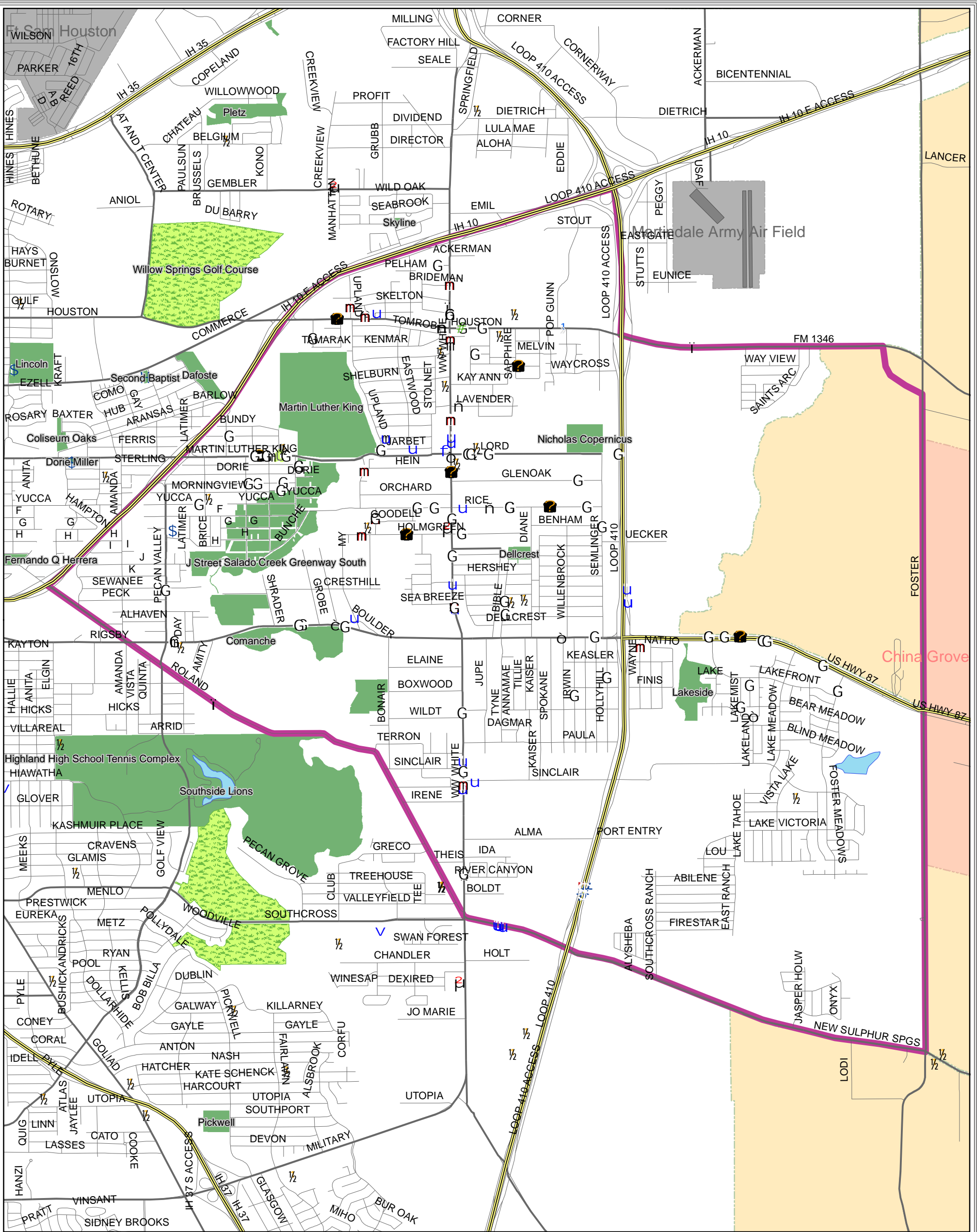
22.1.4. Mediate a cooperative effort between state, county and city government agencies to establish the facility

*Timeline: Short*

*Lead Partner: Eastern Triangle Neighborhood Associations*

*Proposed Partnerships: COSA Customer Service, COSA Metro Health, Texas DPS, Bexar County*

*Proposed Funding Sources: COSA General Fund, Metro Health, Texas DPS, Various government Bonds, Grants, Private funding*



- |  |                     |  |                |  |                       |  |                         |  |                        |
|--|---------------------|--|----------------|--|-----------------------|--|-------------------------|--|------------------------|
|  | Eastern Triangle    |  | Golf Course    |  | COSA Kiosk            |  | Employment Agency       |  | Post Office            |
|  | Bexar County        |  | Military Bases |  | Firestation           |  | Government Agency       |  | Religious Organization |
|  | City of San Antonio |  | Library        |  | Metro Health Facility |  | Health Services         |  | School                 |
|  | Parks               |  | School         |  | Associations          |  | Non-Profit Organization |  | Senior Services        |
|  |                     |  | Hospital       |  | Cemeteries            |  | Nursery & Kindergarten  |  | Youth Center           |



Data Source: City of San Antonio Enterprise GIS, Bexar Metro 911, Bexar Appraisal District  
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# City of San Antonio Eastern Triangle: Community Facilities

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