

EASTERN TRIANGLE COMMUNITY PLAN
PARKS, LINEAR GREENWAYS, COMMUNITY FACILITIES,
AND PUBLIC HEALTH WORKSHOP
AUGUST 26, 2008

**PARKS, LINEAR GREENWAYS, COMMUNITY FACILITIES, AND
PUBLIC HEALTH OVERALL GOAL**

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Parks

Goal: Enhance the area's parks & recreation facilities and programming to establish a regional draw with world-class amenities that meets the present and future needs of the Eastern Triangle Planning Area

Objective: Form a Parks and Recreation Planning Team

Action Steps

- Establish an Eastern Triangle Parks and Recreation Planning Team
- Seek *Affiliate Group Membership* with the San Antonio Parks Foundation's Friends of the Parks organization to remain informed about park issues and developments in San Antonio
- Use the Parks and Recreation Planning team to help allocate funds from Park Bonds
- Parks and Recreation Planning Team to provide input on park design and planning
- Identify ways for citizen input regarding park improvements and Park Bond money allocation
- Utilize the COSA website to identify upcoming meetings about Park projects i.e. Salado Creek

Objective: Develop a multi-sport complex

Action Steps

- Use M. L. King Park as a base for a regional recreational facility
- Host annual sports tournaments or 5K Runs
- Build a Natatorium/swimming complex at M. L. King Park with at least one indoor Olympic-size pool

- Host city-wide and regional swim meets
- Install sand volleyball and softball complex
- Model facilities similar to Time Warner Park
- Develop an area of M. L. King Park for a Par 3 golfing/driving range/putting facility
- Establish a development plan for the area surrounding M. L. King Park

Objective: Enhance existing park facilities

Action Steps

- Review fee-in-lieu-of for parks and recommend changes to ordinance to ensure parkland is dedicated in needed areas
- Develop linear greenway along Rosillo Creek
- Create “action nodes” at trailheads to Salado Creek Greenway that are themed with various sporting activities
 - Tennis courts, basketball courts, disc golf, tether ball, etc.
- Place exercise stations along Eastern Triangle trails and greenways
 - Push-up, sit-up, stretching area, etc.
- Assess suitable park location for the addition of another public swim facility in the area
 - Copernicus Park

Objective: Maintain and improve current parks

Action Steps

- Task Parks and Recreation Planning Team with creating a dialogue with COSA Departments
 - Compile information on maintenance needs and turn them over to appropriate departments
- Use the Parks and Recreation Planning Team to organize community park clean-ups
 - Pattern clean-up like a “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

Objective: Park access

Action Steps

- Create an inter-connected bike network throughout the Eastern Triangle
 - Use utility easements and creekways

- Use the Parks and Recreation Planning Team to connect with COSA Public Works and MPO to create off-street bike trails
 - Create bicycle easements on public agency lands
 - SAWS, PIDs, HOAs, CPS Energy, etc.

Objective: Recreational programs

Action Steps

- Establish COSA organized/sponsored sports teams
- Parks and Recreation Planning Team to work closely with Neighborhood Associations to effectively sponsor community meetings
- Neighborhood Associations to sponsor Parks and Recreation education workshops with various topics. i.e. new park concepts, design ideas, amenities, landscaping with native plants, etc.

Objective: Park safety

Action Steps

- Utilize efficient lighting techniques that enhance the parks appearance and safety
- Coordinate with SA Park Police to institute a park watch system similar to Neighborhood Watch
- Enhance park security by creating programs that keep the parks populated at all hours of park operation
 - Midnight Basketball program
- Create a reporting system for faulty or dangerous equipment

Objective: Acquiring funding

Action Steps

- Utilize various methods to find funding for desirable projects for the area.
 - Call COSA Parks and Recreation to find available funds
 - Partner with Bexar County to find available funds
 - Petition Councilperson for funding for specific projects
- Recruit area organizations and local businesses to help supply park improvement efforts.
 - Not-for-profit organizations such as the Lions Club, Kiwanas Club, Optimist Club, and Boy & Girls Clubs of San Antonio have reputations for helping community projects.
- Encourage development incentives for sports and physical fitness facilities

- Establish a TIRZ (Tax Increment Re-investment Zone) to use private funds or special taxes to fund area improvements

Libraries

Goal: More libraries with resources to address the needs of all ages with separate areas for adults and youth

Objective: Library for adults to do research and learn computer skills

Action Steps:

- Invite Book Mobile to community activities at parks, after school programs, or senior centers.
- Request more computers at the branch libraries to offer more computer training courses
- Request grant for more research books at the library
- Utilize book requests to send books from other branch libraries to be delivered, picked-up, and returned to local branch library
- Request bond for new library
- Utilize internet book exchange to request books from other libraries outside of San Antonio or download digital books
- Utilize homebound book services to request books be sent to residence.
- Write a letter to the Library Director and the Library Board of Trustees to request library services or expansion
- Attend and speak at Library Board meetings. Library Board meeting agendas are posted online and at all libraries

Objective: Library for children to make reading fun and learn computer skills

Action Steps:

- Request more computers at the branch libraries to offer more computer training courses and gaming venue
- Invite Book Mobile to community activities at parks, after school programs, or senior centers.
- Request more computers at the branch libraries
- Request bond for new library
- Write a letter to the Library Director and the Library Board of Trustees to request library services or expansion
- Attend and speak at Library Board meetings. Library Board meeting agendas are posted online and at all libraries

Learning Facilities

Goal: Create a learning center in the Eastern Triangle

Objective: Expand workforce programs to teach vocational skills

Action Steps:

- Coordinate with non-profit organizations such as the Bexar County OIC and St. Philipp's College to offer more vocational classes within the Eastern Triangle

Objective: Reutilize closed schools as learning centers

Action Steps:

- Contact SAISD to discuss what is going to happen to area schools that are closing
- Serve on a board or committee to decide what will happen to closed schools

Objective: Free computer lessons for seniors

Action Steps:

- Coordinate City of San Antonio facilities (Parks, Department of Community Initiatives, and Library) to bring books and learning services closer to the neighborhoods

Youth Programs

Goal: More youth facilities that empower youth academically, physically, and mentally

Objective: Organize youth leaders to work with the community and improve the area

Action Steps:

- Assist local churches in youth outreach to be more appealing to youth
- Reach out to youth through posting flyers at schools to tell them about youth programs
- Petition for more sports facilities

Objective: Provide more after school programs for youth to stay away from bad influences such as drug abuse and gang activity

Action Steps:

- Mentoring programs to set a positive example for the youth
- Work with the local churches to create youth programs that the older kids can lead.
- Participate in art programs for youth to express their creativity through painting, poetry, singing, and dancing.
- Utilize arts programs to relieve youth stress and pressure to do drugs or join gangs
- Collaborate with churches to provide more youth activities
- Partner with YMCA in expanding youth activities

Objective: Provide more recreational activities for youth to stay away from bad influences such as drug abuse and gang activity

Action Steps:

- Petition the development of a movie theater in the Eastern Triangle
- Collaborate with the Office of Cultural Affairs and schools or neighborhood associations to participate in the Break Program.
- Work with Neighborhood Associations to participate in dance and cultural activities for youth
- Promote for cyber cafes for youth extreme gaming
- Utilize the Teen Department at the Central Library and participate in games nights
- Work with the Parks and Recreation Department to provide more opportunity for youth to interactive and compete with youth from other parts of the city

Objective: Keep youth in school

Action Steps:

- Truancy programs

Churches

Goal: Churches that communicate and collaborate on addressing the communities needs

Objective: Create a coalition of churches

Action Steps:

- Create an email list so that churches can share their programs and activities with other church congregations
- Develop a youth outreach program with youth involvement to be appealing to youth

Cultural Activities

Goal: Incorporate art and cultural activities

Objective: xx

Action Steps:

- Make the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) more visible in the Eastern Triangle
- Ensure that community members are aware of OCA activities and opportunities
- Partner with the OCA and City Council to request grant for public art at VIA bus stops
- Visit OCA website to learn more about the programs offered
- Create a grant writing committee to request funding for neighborhood arts programs

Other Community Facilities

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

Objective: Partner with different entities to collaborate and achieve goals

Action Steps:

- Create a unified association with representatives from local churches and neighborhood associations to work together
- Create a neighborhood association coalition to combine forces

Objective: Promote the goals and vision of the Eastern Triangle Community

Action Steps:

- Create a Eastern Triangle marketing committee
- Create a Eastern Triangle website to share information regarding community events, activities, and programs

Objective: Fund activities not the organization so that more programs can be offered

Action Steps:

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Objective: Combine athletic programs

Action Steps:

- Look into existing programs for ideas or to build on the program

Objective: More athletic programs

Action Steps:

- Create more public/private partnerships to address the communities needs

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Action Steps:

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

Objective: Create a “one-stop” service center where residents can request birth certificates and pay vehicle taxes

Action Steps:

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