

1 The Open Space and Trails Committee met in teleconference session on Thursday, July 2, 2020 to
2 discuss and if appropriate, take action on the agenda items listed below.

3
4 **THOSE PRESENT WERE:**

5 Helen Burton	Chair
6 Sally Antrobus	Vice-Chair
7 John Coggeshall – Ex. Absence	Member
8 Monica Comeaux	Member
9 Debra Harper	Member
10 David Popken	Member
11 Heather Cable – Ex. Absence	Member
12 Sean Landis	Deputy City Manager
13 Kevin Padgett	Public Works Director
14 Stephanie Guerrero	Executive Administrative Assistant
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16 Chair Helen Burton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

17 **1. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

18 The Committee has a new volunteer. Chair Burton will take the new volunteer on a parks tour
19 once COVID-19 has settled down. Member Popken will show this volunteer how to get rid of
20 invasive species at Hester Park.

21 **2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

22

23 **2.1 Update and discussion on the Open Space and Parks Master Plan Draft Report.**
24 **(Committee)**

25 Sean Landis, Deputy City Manager, presented the Open Space and Parks Master Plan Draft
26 Report, in Attachment A, to review the Consultants thought process on opportunities and
27 constraints with each of the parks in Seabrook. Mr. Landis asked the Committee Members to
28 make comments/suggestions/ideas on each parks opportunities and constraints on
29 Attachment A and send the comments back for further review at the next Open Space
30 meeting.

31 **2.2 Discuss and take all appropriate action on Evelyn Meador Library StoryWalk and**
32 **Edible Forest. (Committee)**

33 Kevin Padgett, Director of Public Works, explained that Evelyn Meador library, along with
34 Rotaract, are proposing both Story Walk signage and an Edible Forest.

35

36 **EDIBLE FOREST** - Mr. Padgett and members from the Rotaract explained that the edible
37 forest is a proposal that is incorporated with the Community Garden program at the Evelyn
38 Meador Library to plant fruit trees, partially on City property, just east of the library. The
39 edible forest would be Phase III of the Community Garden. Phase I was an herb garden and

40 Phase II was a vegetable garden with outdoor running space and benches. The edible forest
41 would be self-sustaining and the pilot would be ten (10) trees, donated or purchased through
42 the library, with grants to add additional trees. More specifically, the Evelyn Meador Library
43 and the Rotaract agree to 1. provide (10) edible forest trees / plantings through donations or
44 grants secured by Seabrook Rotaracts; 2. limit the number of pilot program edible forest
45 plantings on CITY property to (10); 3. limit the edible forest planting locations to areas which
46 disallow root reach or overhang of limbs to cover the Seabrook hike and bike trails; 4. perform
47 plantings in Fall 2020 / Winter 2021; 5. be responsible for watering and care of the edible
48 forest plantings during root establishment and throughout the life cycle of the plantings; 6.
49 collect unfit for consumption dropped fruit to be utilized for composting, secured on library
50 property; and 7. include self-sustaining maintenance with the assistance of either Seabrook
51 Rotaract or Evelyn Meador Library volunteers. The City agrees to provide space on City park
52 property to accommodate the (10) Edible Forest trees / plantings as part of the Evelyn Meador
53 Library and Seabrook Rotaract Phase III of the Community Garden project.

54

55 *Motion was made by Member Harper and seconded by Member Comeaux*

56 *To approve the Edible Forest*

57 **MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

58 **STORY WALK SIGNAGE** – Mr. Padgett explained that a Story Walk includes up to 20
59 signs about a child’s view in height, along the trails, near the library and at Meador Park,
60 underneath trees and near benches to avoid a problem with mowing. A Story Walk is
61 literally a book that can be read as children walk along the trails, they are able to continue the
62 story until they reach the end. More specifically, the Evelyn Meador Library agrees to
63 provide Storywalk signage to loop around Harris County property within Evelyn Meador
64 Branch Library property, as well as within City of Seabrook park property adjacent to the
65 Library.

66 *Motion was made by Member Harper and seconded by Member Comeaux*

67 *To accept the offer of the StoryWalk but only use the areas around the Evelyn Meador*
68 *Library*

69 **MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

70 **2.3 Discuss and take all appropriate action on Apache Tree donation. (Committee)**

71 Member Coggeshall was approached by Apache Tree to receive a donation of trees on behalf
72 of the City. Apache Tree has been very generous to the City of Seabrook.

73 *Motion made by Member Harper and seconded by Member Popken*

74 *To accept Apache’s offer of trees*

75 *MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT*

76 **2.4 Approve the minutes of the June 4, 2020 Open Space and Trail Committee meeting.**
77 **(Guerrero)**

78 Motion made by Vice Chair Antrobus and seconded by Member Popken

79 To approve the minutes of the June 4, 2020 Open Space and Trail Committee meeting

80 *MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT*

81 **2.5 Establish future meeting dates and agenda items. (Committee)**

82 City Staff is proposing to not create a Carothers Coastal Gardens Task Force II and instead
83 give the responsibility to the Open Space and Trails Committee. With the Open Space and
84 Trails Committee in agreeance, City Staff will present this item to City Council.

85 The next meeting will be held on August 6, 2020.

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87 Upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

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Helen Burton,
Chair

Stephanie Guerrero,
Executive Administrative Assistant



GREENWAYS

Greenways have become one of the most popular family recreation activities across the country. The value of greenways in terms of recreation, education and resource protection is invaluable. Greenways serve as linkages between cities, parks, schools, commercial areas and neighborhoods. They provide a safe mode of transportation that preserves the environment. There are several things to consider when developing a greenway system:

- Have corridors been identified where people will access the area easily?
- Does it connect elements within the community?
- Does it incorporate all the characteristics of the natural resource areas?

Typically, greenways can be anywhere from 10 to 12 feet wide and can be paved or natural surface. When developing a greenway system, corridors should be identified where people will access the area easily and connect elements within the community and incorporate all the characteristics of the natural resource areas. Greenway corridors should be no less than 50 feet in width except in neighborhoods, where 25 feet may be acceptable. In his article published in 1995, Julius Fabos, a professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Massachusetts, divides greenways into three categories: Ecological, Recreational and Cultural.

Greenways can be located in a variety of settings and can be utilized for active and passive recreation activities. Ecologically speaking, they are typically located along natural environments such as rivers, ridgelines and coastal areas. These trails provide connections to nature, protect and maintain biodiversity, minimize development, and provide for wildlife migration across natural and manmade boundaries. Recreational greenways commonly link elements that have diverse and significant landscapes. Many link rural areas to more urban locales and range from local trails to larger systems. Most are paved trails that accommodate pedestrians, skaters and bicycles.

Another type of greenway is the cultural trail, which connects areas of significant historic value and culture. Economic benefits from these types of trails may be significant if linkages can be directed toward areas of commerce to provide an infrastructure for commuting.

SCHOOL PARK

School park sites are an excellent way to combine resources and provide accessible recreation amenities to the community. Depending on the school type (i.e. elementary, middle, high school) the size of the park will be dictated by the land available adjacent to the school. Typically, middle and high schools are constructed with youth athletic fields to support team sports. These facilities provide the basis for developing a community park or, at the very least, youth athletic fields for recreation programs. The selection of school sites is determined by the school district and according to the countywide or citywide distribution of students. The school site selection criteria may or may not meet the needs for parkland distribution. When development of school parks is possible, guidelines for neighborhood/community parks should be followed to meet the needs of residents. When joint developments occur, features common to other parks in the county and surrounding cities (i.e. signs) should be used to identify the property as a public facility.

PRIVATE PARK/RECREATION FACILITY

The private park and recreation facility, as described by the NRPA, meets one of the two following characteristics:

- "Private Parks, such as swimming pools, tennis courts, and party houses, are generally within a residential area developed for the exclusive use of residents and are maintained through a neighborhood association. They are not, however, a complete substitute for public recreation space, and
- Private Recreation Facilities that are for-profit enterprises, such as health and fitness clubs, golf courses, water parks, amusement parks and sports facilities."

These facility types can be entirely private or, in many cases, be a joint venture between a public entity and a private organization. Partnerships of this kind allow for the provision of facilities and programs at a reduced cost to the public sector.

TRAIL & SIDEWALK TYPES

Sidewalks (Four to six feet)

Standard sidewalks are concrete paths ranging from four to six feet in width. These paths provide pedestrian connections while increasing safety by separating the pedestrian from vehicular traffic. These paths are meant for low-volume, low-speed pedestrian or bicycle traffic.

Enhanced Sidewalks (Eight feet)

An enhanced sidewalk is meant for multiple users to access the pathway simultaneously. The sidewalk is a minimum of eight feet in width. While larger than the standard sidewalk, overcrowding can still occur if too many users are crossing paths.

Trails (Ten+ feet)

Trails or shared use paths are a minimum of ten feet to ensure ample space for pedestrians and cyclists to share the sidewalk. These trails are meant to carry a high capacity and best suited for areas of high traffic or high speed such as parks or transportation corridors.

Footpaths / Hiking Trails

Footpaths or hiking trails are pedestrian paths composed of natural surfaces like dirt, rock, soil, forest litter, pine mulch, decomposed granite, or other organic materials. These trails vary in width as they naturally follow the terrain. Benefits of these paths include low environmental impacts to the surrounding area and flexible design standards. On the other hand, footpaths are not ADA accessible and should not be used as a main pedestrian walkway.

INDIVIDUAL PARKS IN SEABROOK

MINI PARK

1. McHale Park
2. Wildwood Park
3. Bayside Park
4. Mohrhusen Park
5. Bay Area Veterans Memorial
6. Pelican Path

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

1. Baybrook Park
2. Brummerhop Park
3. Monroe Field
4. Robinson Park
5. Friendship Park
6. Hester Garden
7. Seabrook Disc Golf

COMMUNITY PARK

1. Miramar Park
2. Pine Gully Park
3. Seabrook Wildlife Refuge
4. Rex Meador Park

SPECIAL USE PARK

1. Carother's Coastal Gardens

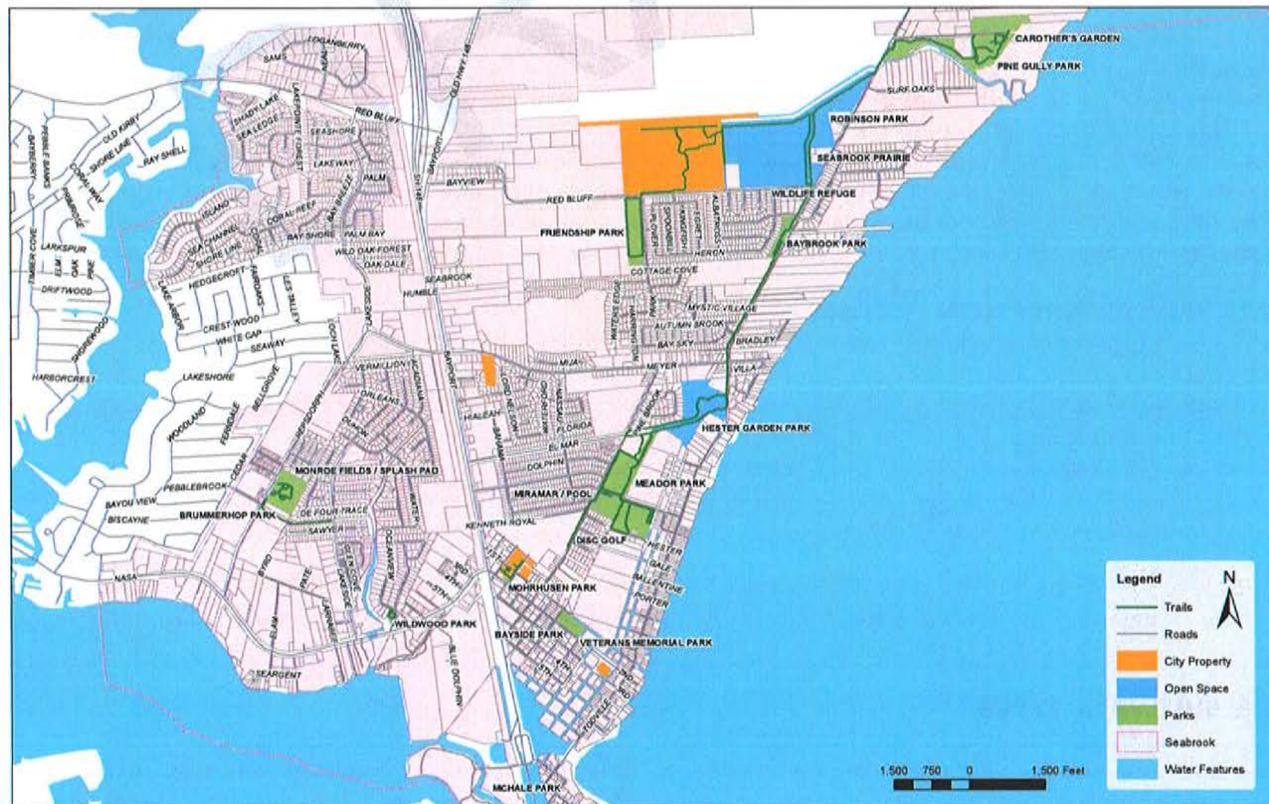


Figure A: Parks and Trails Reference Map

BAYBROOK PARK



4221 Todville Road • 3.6 Acres • Neighborhood Park

OPPORTUNITIES

- Active recreation
- Lit courts
- Connectivity to surrounding neighborhood
- Connectivity to trail along Todville Rd
- Inclusive play swings

CONSTRAINTS

- Lack of shade; especially for basketball courts
- Outdated basketball courts
- Overdue maintenance on tennis court fence
- Lack of playground surfacing
- No ADA access to playground
- Outdated lighting

LEGEND

-  Property line
-  Trails
-  Playground
-  Basketball Court
-  Tennis Court
-  Parking
-  Restroom

AMENITIES

- Tennis Court (2)
- Basketball Court (2)
- Playground
- Restroom
- Trails
- ADA ramps
- Picnic Tables
- Drinking Fountains
- Trash Receptacles
- Picnic Shelters



BRUMMERHOP PARK



2520 Repsdorph Road • 7.4 Acres • Neighborhood Park

OPPORTUNITIES

- Diverse activities offered
- ADA access to playgrounds and courts
- Connectivity to surrounding neighborhood
- Proximity to Monroe Field / Splashpad
- Location on west side of town
- Ample shade

CONSTRAINTS

- Unpaved ADA parking spaces

LEGEND

-  Property line
-  Trails
-  Playground
-  Basketball Court
-  Volleyball Court
-  Parking

AMENITIES

- Basketball Court
- Volleyball Court
- Playground
- Pavilion
- Trails
- Exercise equipment
- Horseshoe pit (2)
- Grill
- Picnic Tables
- Drinking Fountains
- Trash Receptacles
- Picnic Shelters
- Wetlands



MONROE FIELD / SPLASHPAD



2528 Repsdorph Road • 2.2 Acres • Neighborhood Park

OPPORTUNITIES

- Diverse amenities offered
- Splashpad is well used
- Open space for future expansion
- Connectivity to surrounding neighborhood
- Proximity to Brummerhop Park
- Location on west side of town

CONSTRAINTS

- Open space behind splashpad is underutilized
- Unpaved ADA parking spaces
- Limited parking
- Poor drainage between Monroe Field and Brummerhop Park

LEGEND

- Property line
- Trails
- Splashpad
- Open space
- Parking

AMENITIES

- Splashpad
- Backstop
- Picnic Tables
- Shade Structures
- Restroom



HESTER GARDEN PARK



3029 Todville Road • 18.5 Acres • Neighborhood Park

OPPORTUNITIES

- Trails in good condition
- Additional educational signage

CONSTRAINTS

- Limited parking
- Unpaved ADA parking spaces
- Signage is hidden from road
- Needs a trail map

LEGEND

-  Property line
-  Trails
-  Parking

AMENITIES

- Trails
- Wetlands
- Pond
- Nature viewing
- Trash receptacles
- Boardwalk / dock
- Benches





400 Todville Road • .082 Acres (3,550 SF) • Mini Park

OPPORTUNITIES

- Direct access to Galveston Bay
- Potential site for kayak launch
- Paved parking

CONSTRAINTS

- Limited parking
- Lack of programming / activities
- Overdue maintenance on wooden observation deck

LEGEND

-  Property line
-  Trails
-  Parking
-  Waterfront

AMENITIES

- Waterfront
- Pier/ Observation Deck
- Nature Viewing
- Trash Receptacles



MIRAMAR PARK / CITY POOL



1109 Hammer Street • 5.0 Acres • Community Park

OPPORTUNITIES

- Used by local swim teams
- Ability to rent during the day
- Programming opportunities like pool-side socials or dog day
- Trails in good condition
- Proximity to Disc Golf and Rex L. Meador Park
- Paved parking
- Updated playground
- Open area for expansion
- Proximity to Seabrook Sports Complex
- Inclusive play swing

CONSTRAINTS

- Pool is outdated
- No concessions
- Lack of lighting
- No ADA access to playground
- Lack of shade for playground

LEGEND

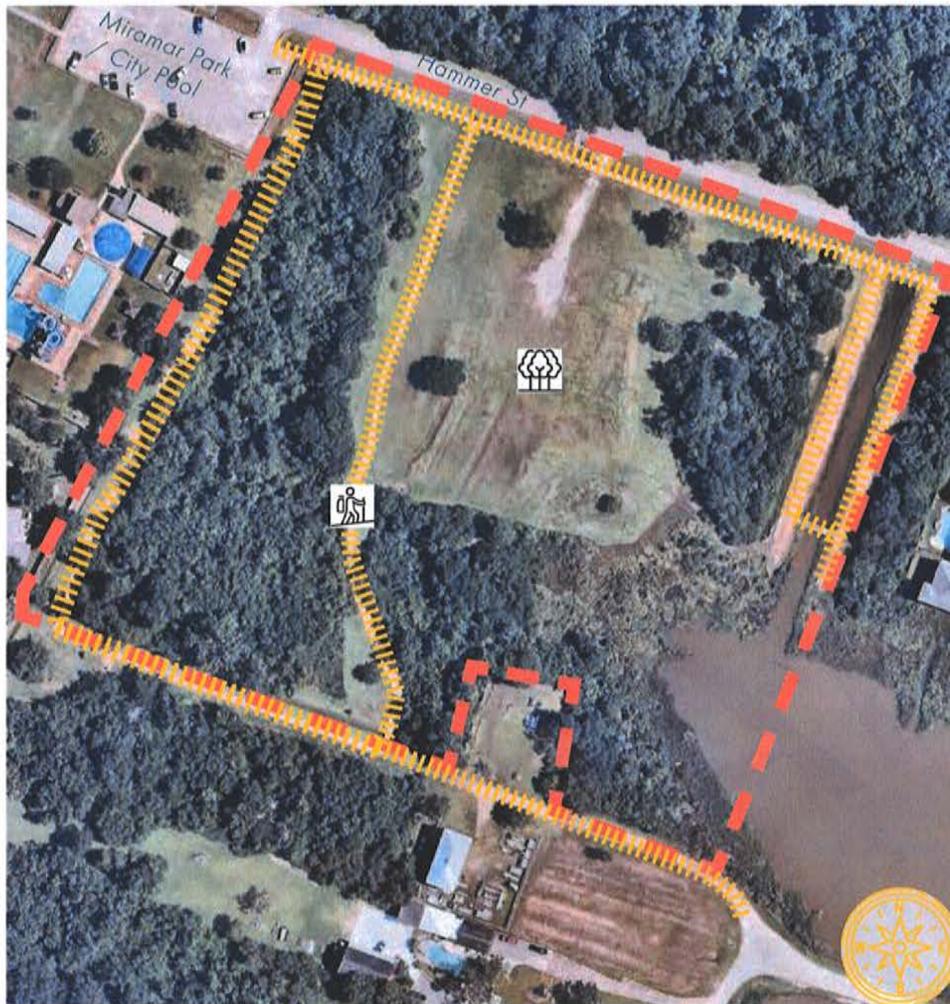
-  Property line
-  Trails
-  Playground
-  Pool / Splashpad
-  Trails
-  Parking
-  Restroom
-  Open Space

AMENITIES

- Lap Pool
- Leisure Pool
- Pavilion
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Trails
- Trash receptacles
- Grill
- Vending Machines
- Splashpad
- 30' Water Slide
- Restrooms
- Bike rack



SEABROOK DISC GOLF



1109 Hammer Street • 9.64 Acres • Neighborhood Park

OPPORTUNITIES

- Diverse activities
- Proximity to Miramar Park / City Pool and Rex L. Meador Park
- Trails and turf in good condition

CONSTRAINTS

- Seasonal use only

LEGEND

-  Property line
-  Trails
-  Trails
-  Open Space

AMENITIES

- Disc Golf Course
- Trails
- Trash receptacles



REX L. MEADOR PARK



2100 N Meyer Road • 11.47 Acres • Neighborhood Park

OPPORTUNITIES

- Shade for basketball courts
- Diverse amenities
- Proximity to Miramar Park / City Pool and Disc Golf
- Connectivity to Evelyn Meador Library
- Open space for events

CONSTRAINTS

- Basketball courts and skate park are outdated
- Lack of maintenance on baseball field turf and backstop

LEGEND

-  Property line
-  Trails
-  Skate Park
-  Baseball
-  Trails
-  Basketball
-  Restroom
-  Open Space

AMENITIES

- Skate park
- Covered Basketball (2)
- Volleyball Court
- Baseball
- Backstop (2)
- Picnic Shelters
- Restrooms
- Trails
- Grills
- Trash receptacles



PINE GULLY PARK



605 Pine Gully Road • 18.66 Acres • Community Park

OPPORTUNITIES

- Direct access to Galveston Bay
- Trails are in good condition
- Natural play areas
- Heavy recreational use
- Popular with residents
- Proximity to Carother's Garden and Pine Gully Trail
- Updated playground

CONSTRAINTS

- Large park size leads to maintenance demands
- Lack of site furnishing standards

LEGEND

- Property line
- ▤ Trails
- 🏠 Playground
- 🚗 Parking
- 🚶 Trails
- 🌳 Open Space
- 🚻 Restroom
- 🌊 Waterfront

AMENITIES

- Waterfront
- Wetlands
- Playground
- Restroom
- Grills
- Picnic tables
- Pier
- Trails
- Nature viewing
- Drinking fountain
- Trash receptacles
- Informational signage



CAROTHER'S COASTAL GARDEN



502 Pine Gully Road • 7.83 Acres • Neighborhood park

LEGEND

-  Property line
-  Trails
-  Trails
-  Open Space
-  Tennis Court
-  Waterfront

AMENITIES

- Waterfront
- Main house and Casita
- Trails
- Gardens
- Nature viewing

OPPORTUNITIES

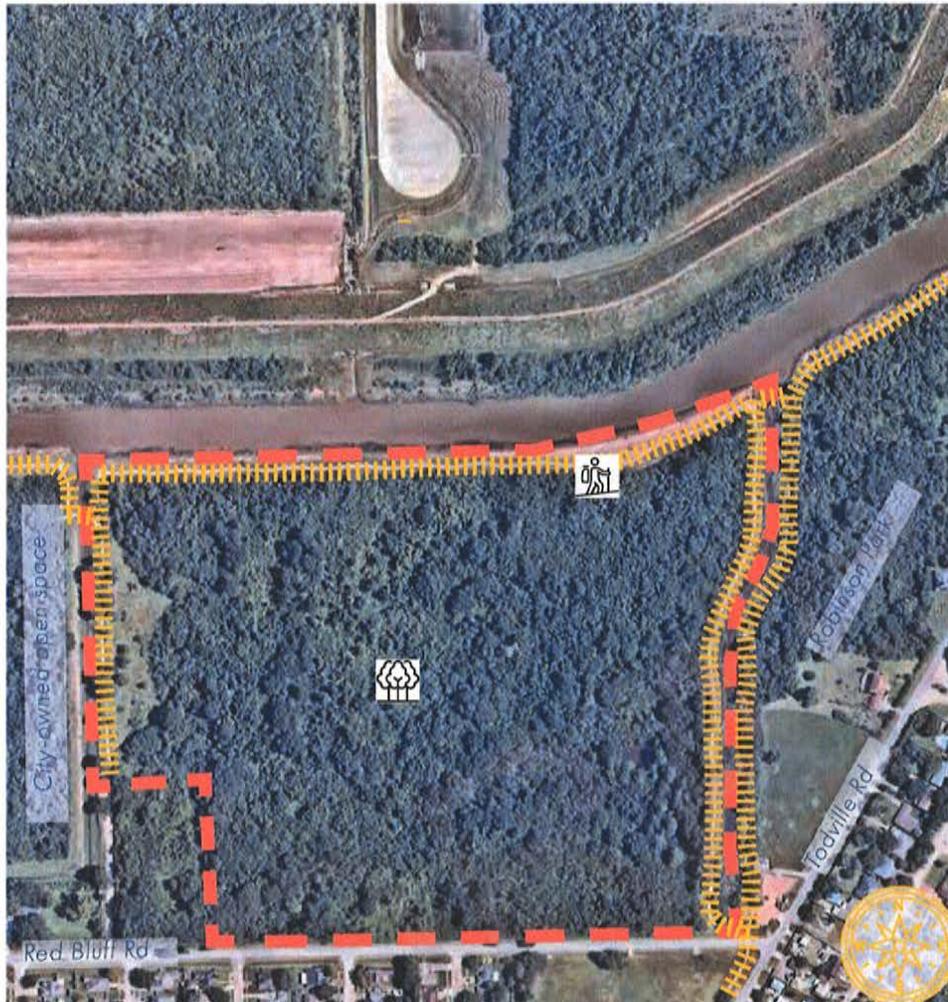
- Direct access to Galveston Bay
- Ability to host events
- Proximity to Pine Gully Park
- Interaction with nature (fishing, bird watching, etc.)
- Re-purpose tennis courts

CONSTRAINTS

- Lack of City signage; unknown to residents
- Surrounded by residential properties
- Receives noise complaints when hosting events
- Lack of access
- Undefined use for house/ structure



SEABROOK WILDLIFE REFUGE



700 Red Bluff Road • 83.0 Acres • Community Park

OPPORTUNITIES

- Trails are in good condition
- Educational signage
- Proximity to Robison Park
- Proposed picnic area / gathering space by parking
- Prevalent wildlife
- Expansion opportunity to adjacent city-owned open space

CONSTRAINTS

- No programming areas
- Lack of wayfinding signs in park
- Out of date informational signs
- Non-paved ADA parking spaces

LEGEND

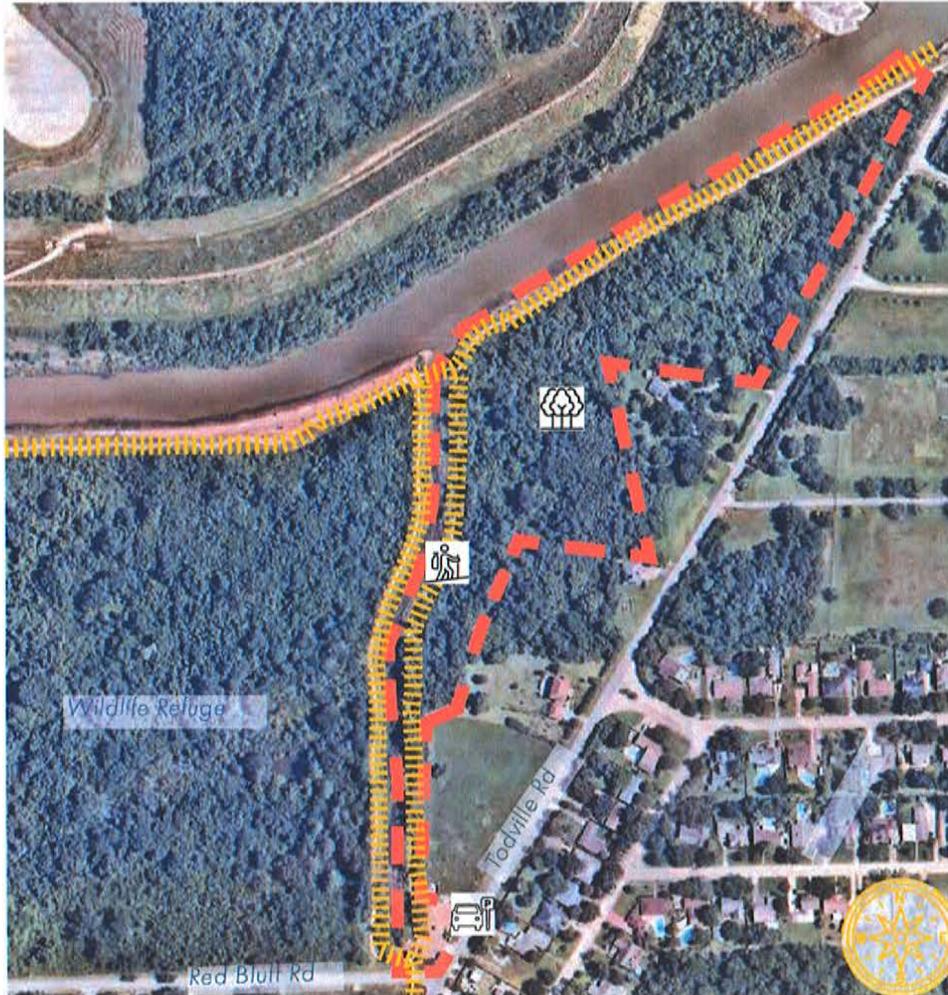
-  Property line
-  Trails
-  Trails
-  Open Space

AMENITIES

- Trails
- Wetlands
- Nature Viewing
- Trash receptacles
- Benches



ROBINSON PARK



4617 Todville Road • 21.65 Acres • Neighborhood Park

OPPORTUNITIES

- Trails are in good condition
- Proximity to Wildlife Refuge and Baybrook Park
- Parking lot has good lighting
- Connectivity to trail along Todville Road
- Educational signage at monument

CONSTRAINTS

- Unpaved ADA parking spaces

LEGEND

-  Property line
-  Trails
-  Trails
-  Open Space
-  Parking

AMENITIES

- Trails
- Wetlands
- Gazebo
- Nature Viewing
- Trash receptacles
- Bike rack
- Monument



WILDWOOD PARK



2200 Oceanview Drive • .66 Acres • Mini Park

OPPORTUNITIES

- Connectivity to surrounding neighborhoods
- Scenic views of Clear Lake
- Located on the west side of town

CONSTRAINTS

- Outdated equipment; Needs improvements
- Development is limited due to wetland preservation
- Programming is focused on young children which is not congruent with the surrounding neighborhood population
- Limited parking

LEGEND

-  Property line
-  Trails
-  Trails
-  Open Space
-  Parking
-  Waterfront
-  Playground

AMENITIES

- Waterfront
- Playground
- Grills
- Picnic tables
- Trash receptacles
- Wetlands



BAYSIDE PARK / BAY AREA VETERAN'S MEMORIAL



1000 2nd Street • 2.65 Acres • Mini Park

OPPORTUNITIES

- Paved trail
- Ample street parking
- Educational signage at Memorial
- Proximity to Galveston Bay
- Trails in good condition

Same picture

CONSTRAINTS

- Lack of shade along trail
- Proximity to the wastewater plant

LEGEND

- Property line
- Trails
- Trails
- Waterfront

AMENITIES

- Memorial
- Waterfront
- Picnic tables
- Trails
- Gazebo
- Nature Viewing
- Trash receptacles
- Fishing



FRIENDSHIP PARK



1500 Red Bluff Road • 9.98 Acres • Neighborhood Park

OPPORTUNITIES

- Partnership with Bayside Little League
- Soccer fields are lit
- Trails in good condition
- Paved parking
- Connectivity to surrounding neighborhoods

CONSTRAINTS

- Overall, park is outdated and needs renovations including:
- Playground equipment
- Sports equipment
- Concessions building
- Lack of shade over playground
- Limited ADA accessibility
- Access to restrooms after municipal hours

LEGEND

-  Property line
-  Trails
-  Trails
-  Playground
-  Parking
-  Restroom
-  Baseball
-  Soccer

AMENITIES

- Basketball
- Soccer field
- Baseball field (3)
- Backstop
- Playground
- Restroom/ Concessions Building
- Grills
- Picnic tables
- Trails
- Drinking fountains
- Trash receptacles



MOHRHUSEN PARK



1212 Cook Avenue • .18 Acres • Mini Park

OPPORTUNITIES

- Central location in the City- proximity to Community House and City Hall
- Trails in good condition
- Art installation- Marcy Fryday Pelican Path
- Well maintained

CONSTRAINTS

- Limited parking
- Needs maintenance on turf

LEGEND

-  Property line
-  Trails
-  Trails
-  Parking

AMENITIES

- Picnic tables
- Trash receptacles
- Garden
- Trails

