

## Appendix F

# Stakeholder Meetings Summary

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### Introduction

Stakeholder meetings are a valuable tool to gather user-specific and park-specific information. The stakeholders' list consisted of individuals, associations or teams, and City leadership. The one-hour long meetings, each conducted with the same general questions and specific topic questions, took place virtually. Stakeholders received an introduction to the project and responded to 10-15 questions which sought park and recreational needs, wants, opportunities, and how to prioritize them in a short- and long-term implementation plan. There were two (2) meetings with Stakeholders on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### Meeting Themes

Four (4) themes were discussed to identify master park plan elements. These were: the future vision for the parks and recreation facilities throughout Leon Valley, goals to attain the vision, existing strengths and assets, and priorities of the goals.

### Vision

In the next 5-10 years stakeholders shared their expectation for parks in Leon Valley.

Summary: Continue maintenance of an existing great park system; enhance Raymond Rimkus as a regional park; add pocket parks; continue the park land dedication in ordinances; add amenities such as a dog park, splash pad, pickleball, skate park; and improve water infrastructure.

Some of those included:

- Raymond Rimkus- Great space with trees, space for families, garden, green space, has a great set-up already especially for accommodating to local residences. Can be seen as a regional park for all to join.
- Small Park characteristics- Shade, green space, drinking fountains for humans and dogs, restrooms, trash disposals.
- Hike and bike trail that connects to the Howard Peak- Amenity for quality of life. Potential grant to extend second phase starting at Evers St. and connects to the medical center.
- New amenities- A dog park, splash pad, pickleball, skate park, Improve the one pool.
- Nature - Preserve natural areas
- Infrastructure - Improve water, sanitary, etc.
- Maintenance - Continue to maintain the park, shade, and add more shade.

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### **Goals of the physical development to achieve the vision**

Summary: Improve lighting and drainage; add accessible water facilities.

- Lighting
- Draining needs to be improved.
- Providing water and facilities accessible.

### **Strengths**

Summary: Continue good maintenance with well kept, family-friendly, and pocket parks to create a higher quality of living.

- Maintenance - Well kept. The grass is kept up
- Family friendly - Facilities, shaded space, picnic areas, exercise for old and young, playground, maintenance of trail areas are safe for kids. Walking loop around Raymond Rimkus and benches for seniors or kids to rest in shady areas.
- Library and park
- Raymond Rimkus Park and natural areas with pocket parks – Value green space, encourages good quality of life.
- Has an ordinance that says they have to set aside park land for subdivisions.

### **Priorities**

Summary: Connect parks with each other; provide bus access; improve lighting; preserve nature; increase maintenance; and address drainage issue areas.

- Lighting
- Connectivity - Access getting to the parks. Access by bus – none in Leon Valley and there are other areas that run regularly – kids have bus passes. More bus stops and timely.
- Maintenance and Nature - Ensuring parks are maintained with shade and natural ecological. Increase personnel to give support to the Public Works Department because the parks system is increasing. High weeds and mosquito maintenance.
- Drainage - Big drainage ditch next to park, it overflowed into the park and could not be used for about 2 weeks, location in front of bleachers.

### **Takeaways**

Summary: Enhance safety and comfort for park users (community policing, park ranger program, regulate shared usage of park amenities); add park amenities including additional active recreation; events and art to attract all age groups; and adopt a comprehensive system of park signage.

#### **Safety/Comfortability**

- Uses the trails a lot and most people using the trails just use that and do not feel the need to go into the neighborhoods. Those creating mischief likely go straight into the neighborhood first.
- Homelessness by Tobin trailhead by 410 and \_\_\_. Had to stop running there. Not common in other areas but this part is more prominent.

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- Community policing that ride up and down. There are park Stuarts that go along the greenway. New Braunfels has 30-40 parks and a park ranger program which is to ensure people in the park are safe. It would help to have people patrolling. Poles with an emergency phone helps to put in a secluded area.
- Regulate sport courts so groups can have timed areas to play without overlap play time
- Community policing is good and hard to maintain with the budget. Can there be a grant for the emergency boxes to call 911.

### Amenities

- Picnic, dog parks, basketball parks, attract families, Skate Park seems popular
- New Braunfels has a butterfly park that is walkable with native plants that attract butterflies then it was expanded to an education center. It would be great to have edible trees. Water splashpad with concrete that is on occasionally, not all year long. Area to walk through that shoots water around like an arch. (MLK Park in front of the Boys and Girls club)
- Sculpture garden, some art – always wanted. And raises the level in a community. Misters in the parks to keep people cool. Ping Pong. Hemisphere Park is a great example- people are respectful- always find what you need.

### Other

- Signage in a small space in the parking lot that is only in one area that is easy to maintain and very visible – if there's funding for something then just add their name in the infrastructure.

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## **Exhibit A**

### **List of Stakeholder Questions**

#### **General**

1. Have you taken the Leon Valley Questionnaire?  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/colvmasterparkupdate>
2. Overall, in the next 5-10 years what would you like to see for the physical development of Leon Valley Parks and Recreation Facilities (vision question)?
3. What specific goals do you believe should be prioritized for Leon Valley Parks and Recreation Facilities during the next 5-10 years (goals)?
4. What do you believe are the greatest assets or strengths of Leon Valley Parks and Recreation Facilities (strengths)?
5. What do you believe are the most important issues Leon Valley Parks and Recreation Facilities will face in the next 5 years (if nothing is done) (needs assessment)?
  - i. What gaps can we ensure to fill for Leon Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update?
  - ii. What weaknesses can we ensure to fill for Leon Valley Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update?
6. If nothing is done now, what do you think are the serious issues that come up later (threats)?

#### **Topic Specific**

7. Which street connections or intersections leading to the park need high-quality pedestrian infrastructure (sidewalks, shading, crossing lights)?
8. What kind of safety or screen buffering would be best to help address the safety concerns?
  - i. Park abutting a neighborhood
  - ii. Traffic
  - iii. Noise
  - iv. Lighting
  - v. Other
9. Any other comments to share that you hear about in your subdivision in regard to the parks and recreation facilities?
10. Other opportunities (comments/suggestions/recommendations)?