



## Chapter 7: Community Facilities Plan

### Introduction

The City's community facilities have a direct impact on the safety, health and overall quality of life for Midland area residents. As outlined in Chapter 2: City Profile, community facilities include services such as police, fire, City offices, schools, recreation, and utilities. As new residents, new land uses, new businesses and new neighborhoods become part of the community, the City's facilities must expand and integrate with these changes. This Chapter discusses goals and policies that will address maintenance and expansion of utilities and parks and recreation facilities.

### Facilities Vision and Goals

The vision for the City is to strive for a high quality of life for current and future residents by maintaining a diverse and unified system of community facilities and services. Included in this vision is preservation and appreciation of parks and open space within the City and the MUGA.

The following is an outline of goals and objectives that should be considered during important capital investment decisions, policy decisions, and changes to regulations. These elements should also be interwoven into other decisions related to issues such as land use, transportation, neighborhoods, and economic development.



**Goal 1:** *Continue to offer the highest quality, efficient services and facilities for residents.*

- Ensure new parks, public safety, and utility facilities are conveniently located to serve residents.

**Goal 2:** *Promote community services and facilities that integrate and unify the community.*

- Continue to promote the historical and cultural resources provided in the community.
- Promote the continued development of public facilities within new neighborhoods.
- Promote prevalent traditional neighborhood design elements that incorporate community facilities into neighborhoods.

**Goal 3:** *Continue to acquire, develop, maintain and preserve open space and recreation facilities.*

- Implement the recommendations of the City of Midland Parks and Recreation Plan (and update the plan every five years).



- Acquire and preserve open space and parkland, concentrating on developing recreation space in new neighborhood areas.

**Goal 4: *Preserve significant natural features in the City and MUGA.***

- Encourage developers to integrate existing open space and parkland into new developments.
- Develop ordinances which preserve the integrity of the natural settings of neighborhoods, communities, open spaces and parks, and develop clear procedures for their enforcement.

## **Facilities Recommendations**

The City has always strived to offer Midland residents the most desirable community facilities to maintain their quality of life. As the City plans for the future, maintaining existing high quality park and utility systems must be a high priority. The following recommendations for maintaining and improving the City's community facilities should be used with the broad goals offered above in making capital improvement, policy, and regulatory decisions.

### ***Utilities***

The City's current policies and regulations tie the expansion of utility services to annexation into the City Limits. This provides the City with tools to promote well-planned, contiguous development around the existing City Limits and within the MUGA. The City should continue to use current utility policies to promote a systematic pattern of development that efficiently utilizes existing infrastructure and allows focused infrastructure improvements along planned corridors.

### ***Parks and Recreation***

The quantity and diversity of parks and recreation facilities around the City are the envy of many other communities across the region. The City should pursue ordinance incentives to promote the development and integration of parks into new developments. These incentives could include density bonuses or other dimensional modifications that would provide an added benefit for the developer to design for parks, recreation, and civic facilities within new neighborhoods. Specifically, the City should regularly pursue or investigate the purchase or other establishment of additional parkland in the expanding north/west sides of the City, especially as development in those areas continues.