

2024 Fort Bend County Parks and Trails Vision Plan

Commissioner Meeting

June 11, 2024



AGENDA

- **Project Overview/Schedule**
- **Existing Conditions Assessment**
- **Engagement Feedback**
- **Next Steps**





PROJECT OVERVIEW/SCHEDULE

PROJECT OVERVIEW

“Preparing parks and recreation master plans can provide a foundation for economic development, healthy communities, and a unique sense of place.”

INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, UNIV. OF DELAWARE

Purpose

Develop recommendations and guidance for both short- and long-term planning for parks and trails within Fort Bend County including facilities provided and maintained by other entities.

What is a Parks and Trails Vision Plan?

- Develop a baseline for parks and recreational facilities within the County
- Develop consensus for project recommendations and prioritization
- Opportunity to align community input with budgetary needs
- Additional grant/funding and partnership opportunities



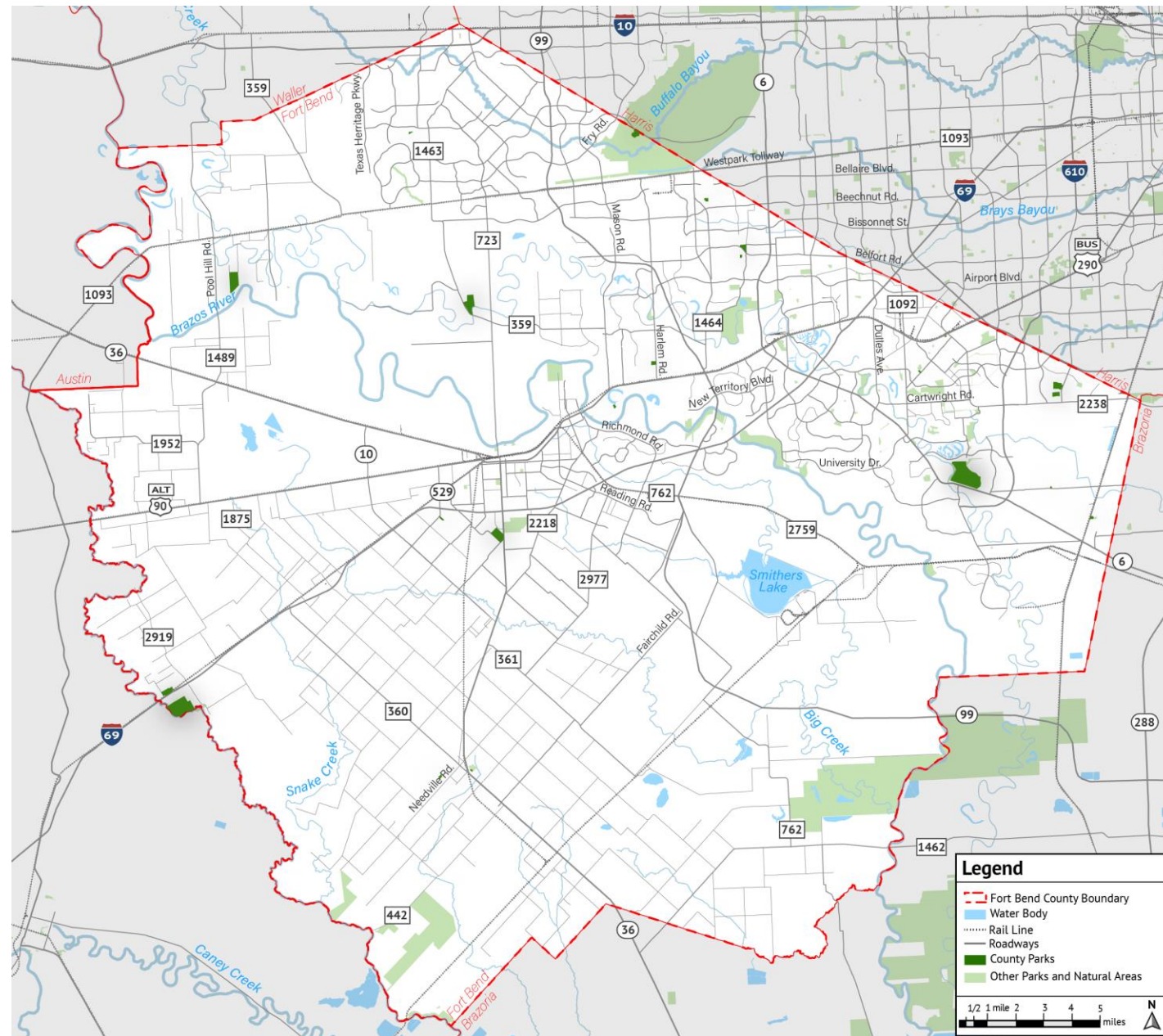
*Project schedule delayed due to County Bond election



EXISTING CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT

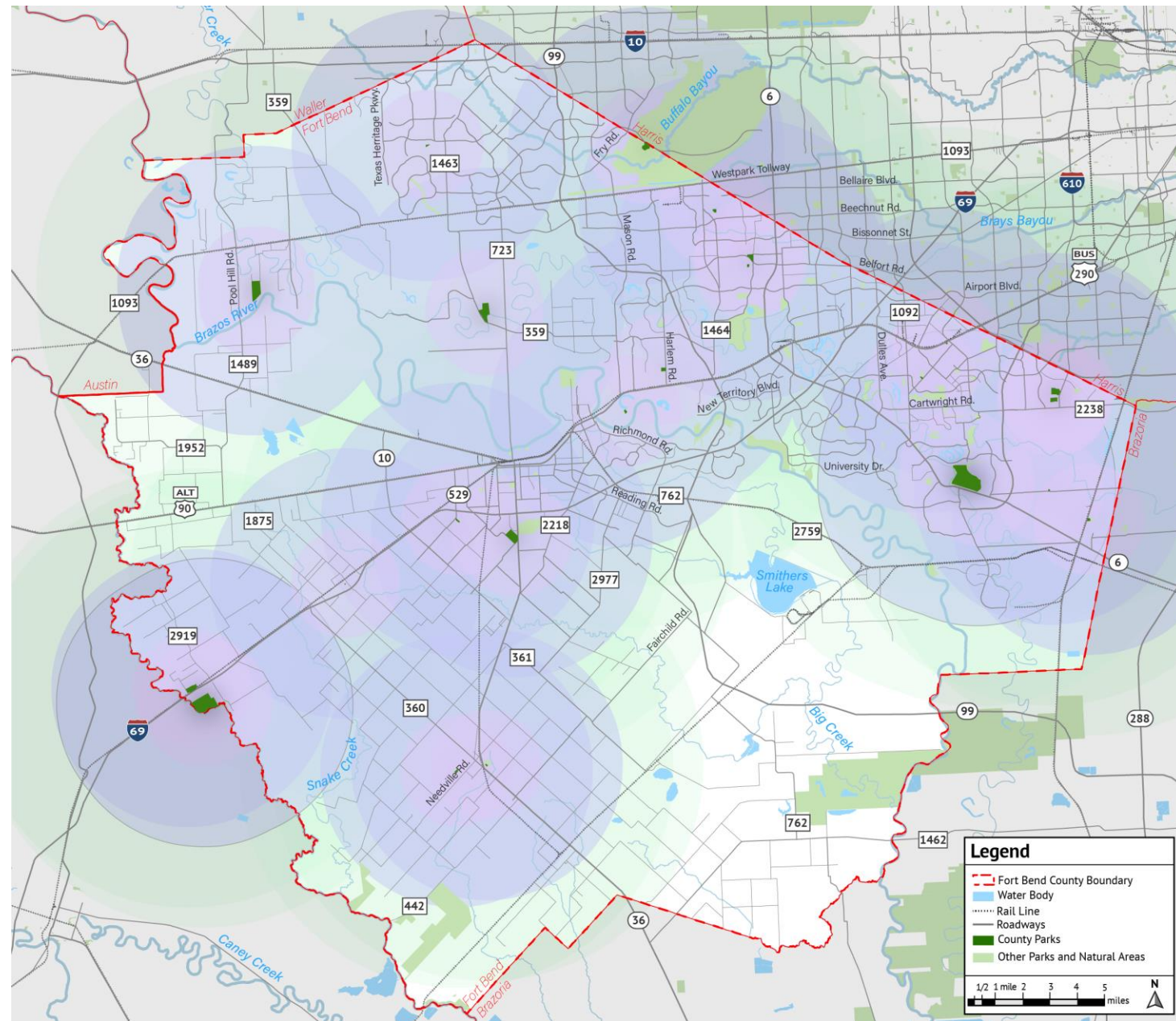
PARK SYSTEM

- Over 820,000 residents throughout Fort Bend County (expected to grow to +1M by 2030)
- Cities include Sugar Land, Katy, Nearly 2,800 acres across 19 county owned and maintained park facilities
- Amenities include playgrounds, splash pads, basketball courts, pavilions, and restrooms



ANALYSIS

- Three analyses completed:
 - Park acreage
 - Access to parkland
 - Facility assessment
- 3.31 park acres per 1,000 residents
- 14 miles of existing trails within parks





ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder Meetings (4)

- July 2023
- City and County staff
- Environmental groups and non-profits
- HOAs, MUDs, user groups, and sports leagues
- Elected officials, regional agencies, and state entities

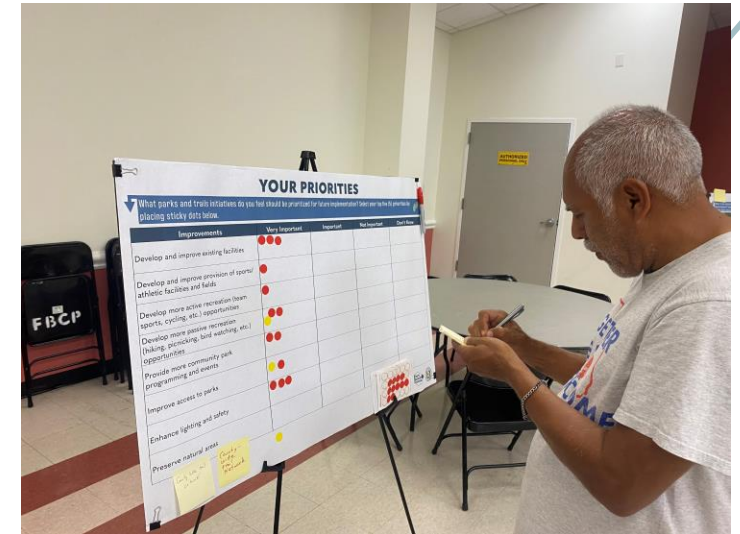
Public Meetings (4)

- April 2024
- 34 total attendees
- One held in each Commissioner Precinct



Key Takeaways

- Increased awareness of County-owned park facilities and amenities
- Opportunity for improved connectivity and accessibility of park system
- Improved signage and lighting is needed at all parks
- Opportunity to preserve native planting areas and natural vegetation
- Additional programming for youth and adults
- Trail connections throughout the County along drainage ditches, utility easements, and railroad rights-of-way
- Sports fields should be flexible to accommodate multiple user groups (baseball, football, soccer, cricket, etc.)
- Work with developers to incorporate trail connectivity and open space preservation in master planned communities

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SURVEY FEEDBACK

Survey Open April to May 2024

35-54

Avg. Age of
Respondent

40%

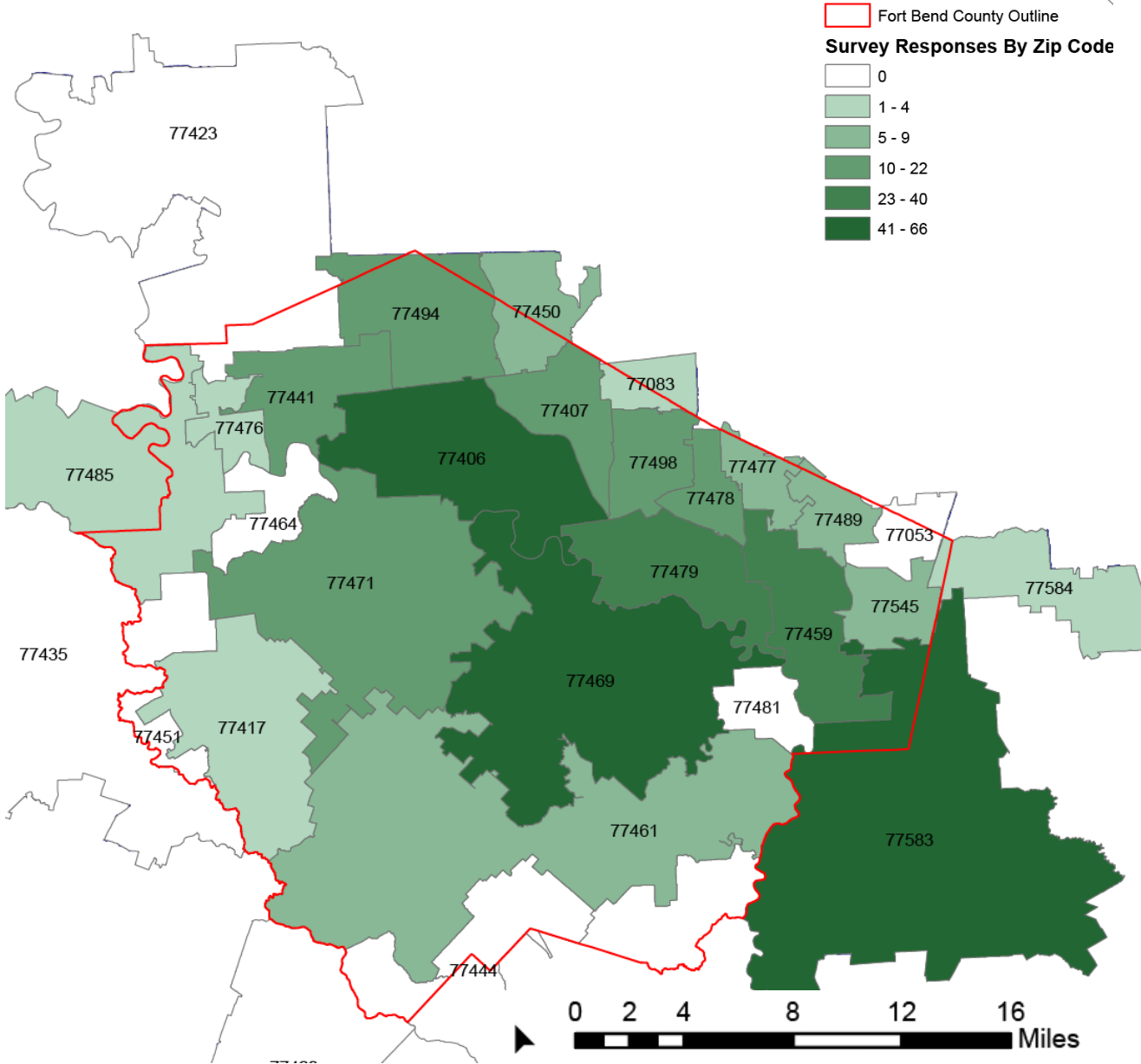
Respondents lived in
Fort Bend 20+ years

433

Survey
Respondents

31

Zip Codes
Respondents Live



SURVEY FEEDBACK

Survey Response Insights:

- Lack of awareness
- Programmed events and activities preferred
- Safety and Cleanliness
- More opportunity to be close to nature
- Expanding the trail system
- Park visits correlate to proximity to homes
- Request for more variety within parks (active, passive, youth, adult, etc.)



Youth Sports Fields



Safe Crossings to
Access Parks



Signage &
Wayfinding



Shade Structures
Other Amenities



Pickleball &
Adult Activities



Trails Connecting
Communities



Events and
Programing



More Nature and
Open Space Access



Youth Activities
Updated Facilities



NEXT STEPS

NEXT STEPS

- Complete Conditions Assessment and Gap Analysis
- Draft Recommendations and Implementation Strategies
- Regional Trail Connectivity
- Order of magnitude cost estimates and maintenance considerations
- Funding Opportunities

