Urban & Municipal Parks

Improving Communities through Citizen Input

- Local parks provide community members with places to recreate, exercise, seek restoration, and socialize.
- Research understanding use demands for local parks is a major priority for Park Directors (TPWD).
- Large cities are also concerned about how to select and develop accessible, preferred park spaces in land-locked settings (TPWD).
- 93% of survey participants indicate they have used at least one Texas municipal park (TPWD).
- Planners, managers, and policymakers need citizen input resources and technical assistance in order to meet the complex demands of diversifying and densifying populations.

Extension Response

- Texas AgriLife Extension provides educational and technical assistance for developing and conducting citizen input and planning processes.
- From 2011 through 2013 Extension has produced over 7,200 indirect contacts with citizens requesting input.
- From 2011 through 2013 Extension has produced approximately 1,068 direct citizen input contacts.
- Additionally, Extension has facilities over 50 community input sessions and provided technical assistance to 17 communities/non-profits/schools/Extension county offices.

Economic Impact

- Engaging citizens increases the likelihood of park use and park support.
- From 2002-2011 bond election results have approved $1,817,570,084 for Texas local Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (TPL).
- Texas has received $175 million in matching grants for parks since the development of the LWCF (TPWD).
- The total economic impact of Texas local parks in 2006 was $5.51 billion in spending and 38,390 jobs created statewide (The Perryman Group, 2006).