



To: City Council

From: Michael Barrera, City Manager

Date August 24, 2023

Re: **SECOND READING - Ordinance No. O-23-08-11, AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MATHIS, TEXAS, ADOPTING THE “MATHIS PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN” AS PROVIDED FOR; PURSUANT TO TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 213, AS PROVIDED HEREIN; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES, ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT OR IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY.**

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**Caption**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MATHIS, TEXAS, ADOPTING THE “MATHIS PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN” AS PROVIDED FOR; PURSUANT TO TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 213, AS PROVIDED HEREIN; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES, ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT OR IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY.**

**Purpose: SECOND READING**

To approve the 2023 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan of the City of Mathis.

**Background**

The City Council directed the Parks Director to move forward with the development of a Parks Master Plan. The plan will assist the City in qualifying for grant funds that may be available for funding the projects included in the plan. Public input was obtained by issuing a survey out to the community, holding stakeholder meetings and obtaining individual Council member ideas for improving our parks. A Public Hearing has been conducted.

Enclosure: Ordinance No. O-23-08-11  
Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

CITY OF MATHIS  
Ordinance No. O-23-08-11  
ADOPTION OF THE MATHIS PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MATHIS, TEXAS, ADOPTING THE “MATHIS PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN” AS PROVIDED FOR; PURSUANT TO TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE CHAPTER 213, AS PROVIDED HEREIN; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES, ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT OR IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY.**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 213 of the Texas Local Government Code provides that municipalities may adopt an Open Space and Parks Master Plan for long range development for the City, and that such a comprehensive plan may include, but is not limited to provisions of land use, transportation, public facilities to include parks, and to coordinate and guide the establishment of development regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of Mathis appointed the Parks Director to develop a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks Director conducted an extensive review, conducted hearings, received public and staff comments and thereafter made his final recommendations to City Council contained in the “Mathis Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan”; and

**WHEREAS**, after the subject public hearings and reviews, the City Council has considered the final report of the Parks Director and has accepted the City Council “Mathis Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan,” to be adopted in accordance with the limitations, restrictions and requirements of Chapter 213 of the Texas Local Government Code for use as a future planning device of an advisory nature only; and

**WHEREAS**, all public notices have been posted, published and all required hearings on this matter have been held in accordance with law; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MATHIS, STATE OF TEXAS:

**SECTION 1. FINDINGS OF FACT.**

That the facts and matters set forth in the preamble of this Ordinance are hereby found to be true and correct.

*Ordinance No. O-23-08-11 - continued*

**SECTION 2. ADOPTION OF MATHIS PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN**

The Mathis “Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan” is hereby adopted pursuant to the limitations, restrictions and requirements of Section 213 of the Texas Local Government Code, as contained herein.

**SECTION 3. REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES.**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict or inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby expressly repealed.

**SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY.**

In the event any clause phrase, provision, sentence, or part of this Ordinance or the application of the same to any person or circumstances shall for any reason be adjudged invalid or held unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect, impair, or invalidate this Ordinance as a whole or any part or provision hereof other than the part declared to be invalid or unconstitutional; and the City Council of the City of Mathis, Texas, declares that it would have passed each and every part of the same notwithstanding the omission of any such part thus declared to be invalid or unconstitutional, whether there be one or more parts.

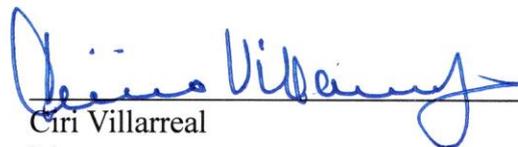
**SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This ordinance shall take effect and shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

First reading was accomplished at a City Council meeting held on August 21, 2023, the second and final reading was held on August 28, 2023.

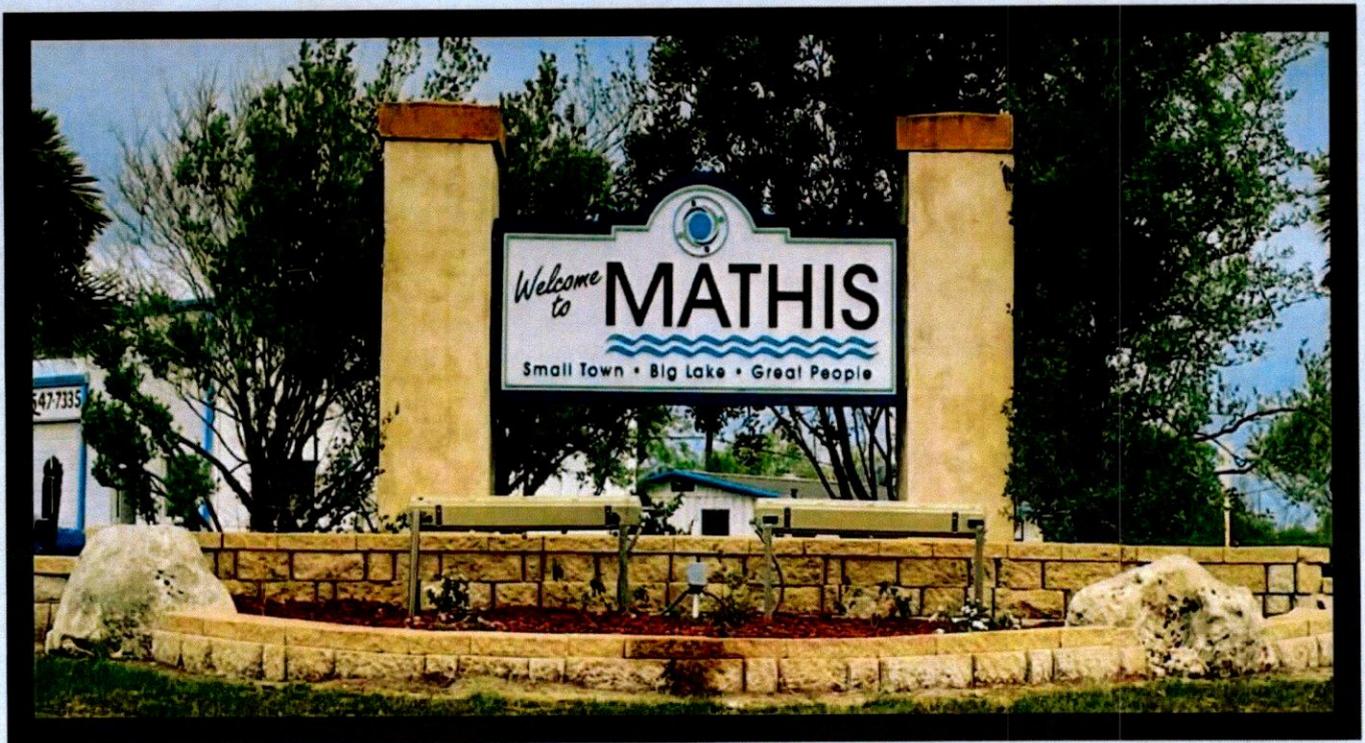
**DULY PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MATHIS, TEXAS THIS 28<sup>th</sup> DAY OF August, 2023.**

**CITY OF MATHIS, TEXAS**

  
Ciri Villarreal  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
Mary A. Gonzales  
City Secretary



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN  
SPACE MASTER PLAN  
CITY OF MATHIS, TEXAS  
2023-2033

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### Contacts:

Michael Barrera  
City Manager  
City of Mathis, Texas  
411 E. San Patricio Ave  
Mathis, Texas 78368  
361-547-3443  
[mbarrera@cityofmathis.com](mailto:mbarrera@cityofmathis.com)

Paul Pulley  
Parks Director  
City of Mathis, Texas  
214 N. Nueces Street  
Mathis, Texas 78368  
361-547-3995  
[ppulley@cityofmathis.com](mailto:ppulley@cityofmathis.com)

## **I. MASTER PLAN TIMELINE**

The master plan process began April 2023 with an anticipated City Council adoption date of July 2023.

The project timeline included the following phases:

### **Phase 1- Inventory/Assessment**                      Date: April 2023

#### ➤ **Data Collection and map preparation**

Date: April 2023

#### ➤ **Inventory and facility analysis**

Date: April 2023

#### ➤ **Population analysis and demographic trends**

Date: April 2023

#### ➤ **Recreation program analysis**

Date: April 2023

#### ➤ **Analysis and needs assessment**

Date: April 2023

#### ➤ **Community input and engagement**

Date: April 2023

#### ➤ Stakeholder Focus Group Workshop

#### ➤ Interview Mayor and City Council members

#### ➤ Develop Survey of needs

## **Phase 2- Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan**      Date: May 2023

- **Priority ranking**  
Date: May 2023
- **Action and Implementation plan**  
Date: May 2023
- **Financial assessment**  
Date: May 2023
- **Funding and review strategies**  
Date: May 2023
- **Community input and engagement**  
Date: May 2023
- **Final Master Plan**  
Date: July 2023

## II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this Master Plan is to guide the City towards a growing and enhanced park system. The City of Mathis Parks & Recreation Department has prepared this updated Master Plan to provide guidance to the City in its management of parks and recreations facilities. The identified priorities serve as a guide for decisions made in producing and updating the Master Plan. This Master Plan will help build and enhance community partnerships to deliver quality services and facilities. As the 2002 Master Plan serves as companion documents to this effort, this plan identifies the most recent inventory data, demographics, staff and public input. The following decisions were prioritized the Citizen surveys, Focus group meeting, City Council individual meetings and City staff. The recommendations were to enhance and upgrade the park system in order to continually provide a successful park system that meets the needs of the community. The number one recommendation per citizen Master Plan survey from the citizens was to focus on the installation of new sports lighting, specifically at Gonzalo Paiz Park. This update will serve as a guide in park development and funding over the next five to ten years.

### III. INTRODUCTION

The City of Mathis Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan was initially developed in 2000. Now twenty-three years later we are in the process of revisiting and redeveloping an up to date Master Plan in order to guide the City towards a growing and enhanced park system. This plan intends to share the community goals and objectives, park & open spaces needs, and recommended projects with the citizens of Mathis. The purpose for this Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to identify proposed improvements to meet the current and future needs of the community, potential phases of development with estimated costs and potential funding opportunities. The City's seven parks and one open space have received decades of use and wear resulting in the need for a master plan for each park to provide a clear direction and framework to enhance and improve these parks and open space.

This plan includes summaries of the following:

- 2020 Demographics & population projections
- Methodology
- Goals and Objective
- Parks Standards & Parks Inventory
- Citizen Input
- Needs and Priorities
- Implementation schedule for future developments

**IV. Mathis Demographics**  
(According to Censusreporter.org)

**Mathis, Texas**

Place in: San Patricio County, TX, Corpus Christi, TX Metro Area, Texas, United States

City of Mathis is 3.3 square miles. Mathis is located in the northwestern San Patricio County. The nearby cities include Orange Grove, Skidmore, Odem, Banquete, Sinton.

**2020 POPULATION**

4,413

89% of the people in Mathis, TX are Hispanic and 8% White

**PEOPLE PER SQAURE MILE**

1,330.7 people

**2020 MEDIAN AGE**

36.7

**2020 POVERTY RATE**

29.9%

**2020 MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

\$31,023

**2020 HOUSEHOLD NUMBER**

1,651

**2020 MEDIAN PROPERTY VALUE**

\$66,200

## V. METHODOLOGY

The intent of this plan is to help guide the City of Mathis in the development and maintenance of its existing and future Parks System. In addition to coordinating with City Staff, several steps were taken to ensure a successful and realistic updated master plan:

- Inventory the existing parks and open space systems
- Conduct Focus Group Workshop to obtain information from specific groups within the community.
- Interviewed the Mayor and City Council members individually
- Develop and distribute a citizen survey to residents of Mathis and surrounding communities to better understand the need for the existing and future park systems.

Based on citizen input, the existing park inventory, available online resources and professional opinions, potential park projects that include mostly updated and renovating parks throughout the community. Once the Master Plan list was identified and developed, the projects for the City were prioritized based on the request of the citizens.

## **VI. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Goals and Objectives are provided to give direction for the future community decisions regarding parks, recreation and open space specifically in the City of Mathis. The following goals and objectives were established based on input from the City of Mathis residents, City Staff and professional opinion.

### **PARKS AND RECREATION GOAL:**

*To ensure the provision of a balanced park and open space system that meets the recreational need of the citizen of Mathis and help to create a unique community character.*

### **PARK AND RECREATION OBJECTIVES:**

- *To renovate, rehabilitate and upgrade existing parks in Mathis.*
- *To maintain the existing park system at a high level and increase maintenance as new facilities are developed.*
- *To be proactive in developing existing properties to include recreational facilities.*
- *To forge partnership with Mathis Little League, Mathis Youth Football League and MTX Elite and other organizations for the development, operation and maintenance of recreational facilities.*

**OPEN SPACE GOAL:** *To identify, protect and preserve natural open spaces for the protection of valuable ecosystems, unstructured recreational activities, and inherent aesthetic value. This space can be utilized for carnivals, farmers markets and city events.*

**OPEN SPACE OBJECTIVES:**

- *To limit development in natural open spaces in order to minimize adverse effects on valuable ecosystems.*
- *To address natural open space needs when developing active recreational facilities while providing citizens with well balanced recreational experiences that include both active and passive opportunities.*
- *To be proactive in the acquisition and protection of unique natural open spaces throughout the City of Mathis.*

## VII. PARK STANDARDS AND INVENTORY

The City of Mathis is made up of seven parks and one open space. The following chart defines the characteristics of each park within the City.

PARK	SIZE	TYPE OF PARK	TYPICAL FACILITES
GONZALO PAIZ PARK	40.92 ACRES	COMMUNITY	Playground apparatus, picnic area(s), restroom, small pavilion with (2) picnic tables, BBQ grills, open space landscaping, play courts, sports fields, baseball & softball complex, benches, exercise courses, walking & jogging trail, tennis courts, parking
SP 4 DANIEL PEREZ JR MEMORIAL PARK	1.22 ACRES	COMMUNITY	Playground apparatus, swing set, see-saws, picnic tables, BBQ grills, pavilion, exercise stations, walking trail.
SGT. ERISTEO GUTIERREZ PARK	0.58 ACRES	NEIGHBORHOOD	Playground apparatus, picnic tables, benches, BBQ grill
OTILIA M. CARRILLO PARK	0.84 ACRES	NEIGHBORHOOD	Playground apparatus, picnic table, bench, BBQ grill
LC LUPE MONSEBAIS MEMORIAL PARK	0.37 ACRES	NEIGHBORHOOD	Playground apparatus, swing set, see-saws, picnic table, grill
RAMSOWER VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK	1.8 ACRES	COMMUNITY	Swing set, see-saws, BBQ grill, picnic tables, benches, memorial pavilion.
PFC ARTURO S. ZAMORA MEMORIAL PARK	1.04 ACRES	NEIGHBORHOOD	Swing set, see-saws and a back stop which are used to facilitate baseball and softball practices.
8 ACRE	7.51 ACRES	OPEN SPACE	Xavier's Landing Pad, City events
<b>TOTAL ACREAGE</b>	<b>54.8 ACRES</b>		

## **VIII. CITIZEN INPUT**

To better understand the needs of the residents of Mathis, the City decided to use a citizen driven needs based approach to park planning. In order to continue to develop a growing park system, the City invited the public to participate in an online survey and hosted one focus group meeting with community leaders and athletic organization groups. The City received a total of 309 total responses to the online survey. Of this amount 258 were citizens of the City. This equates to approximately 16% response rate of the estimated households in the City.

After conducting the meeting and reviewing all the survey data, its apparent that the overwhelming amount of citizens of Mathis and surrounding areas agree that Gonzalo Paiz Park was the most visited park with the most needs of renovations and improvements.

### ***CITIZEN SURVEY INPUT***

A citizen survey was provided online and was open to the public for comments. After tabulating and reviewing the results, the majority of the received surveys indicated improvements should be made at Gonzalo Paiz Park.

- Baseball, Softball and Football Sports Lighting
- Splash Pad or Pool
- New or updated restroom facilities
- Playground equipment upgrades & maintenance
- Defined Parking & Designated Parking

- ADA Compliance to all the parks
- Lack of activities for all generations
- Playground equipment upgrades & maintenance
- Defined Parking & Designated Parking
- ADA Compliance to all the parks
- Lack of activities for all generations

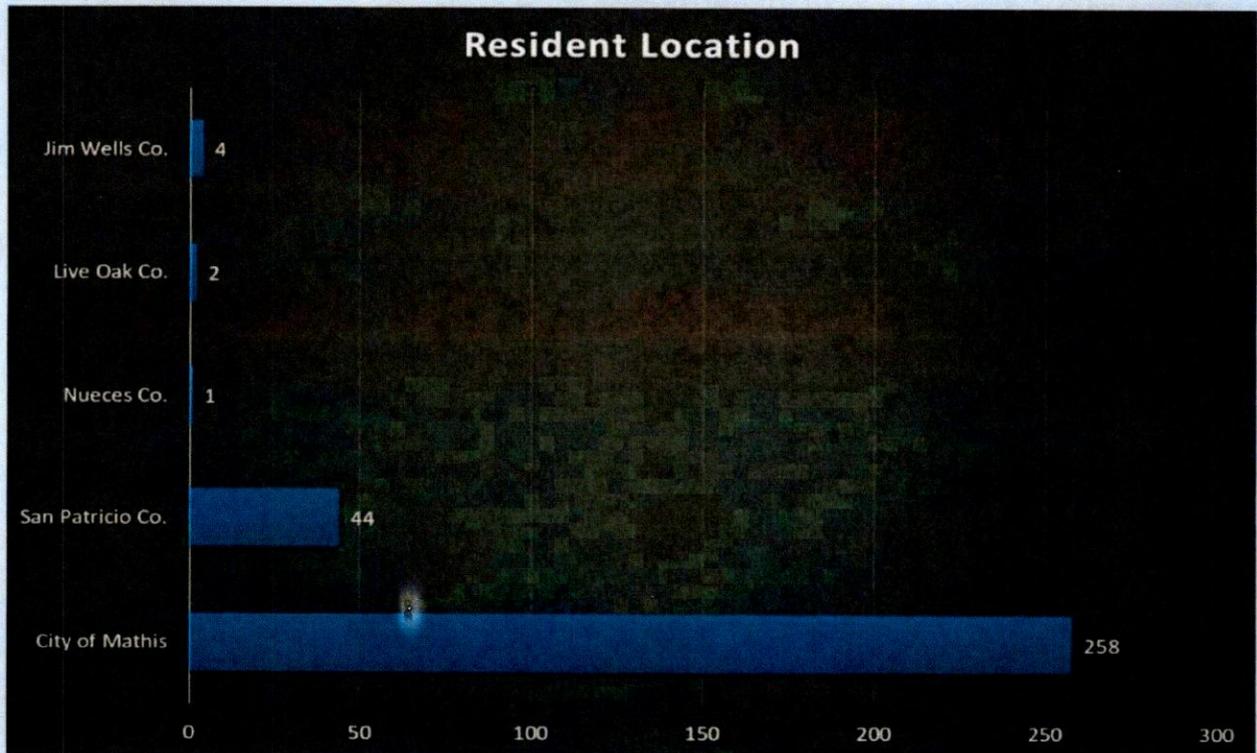
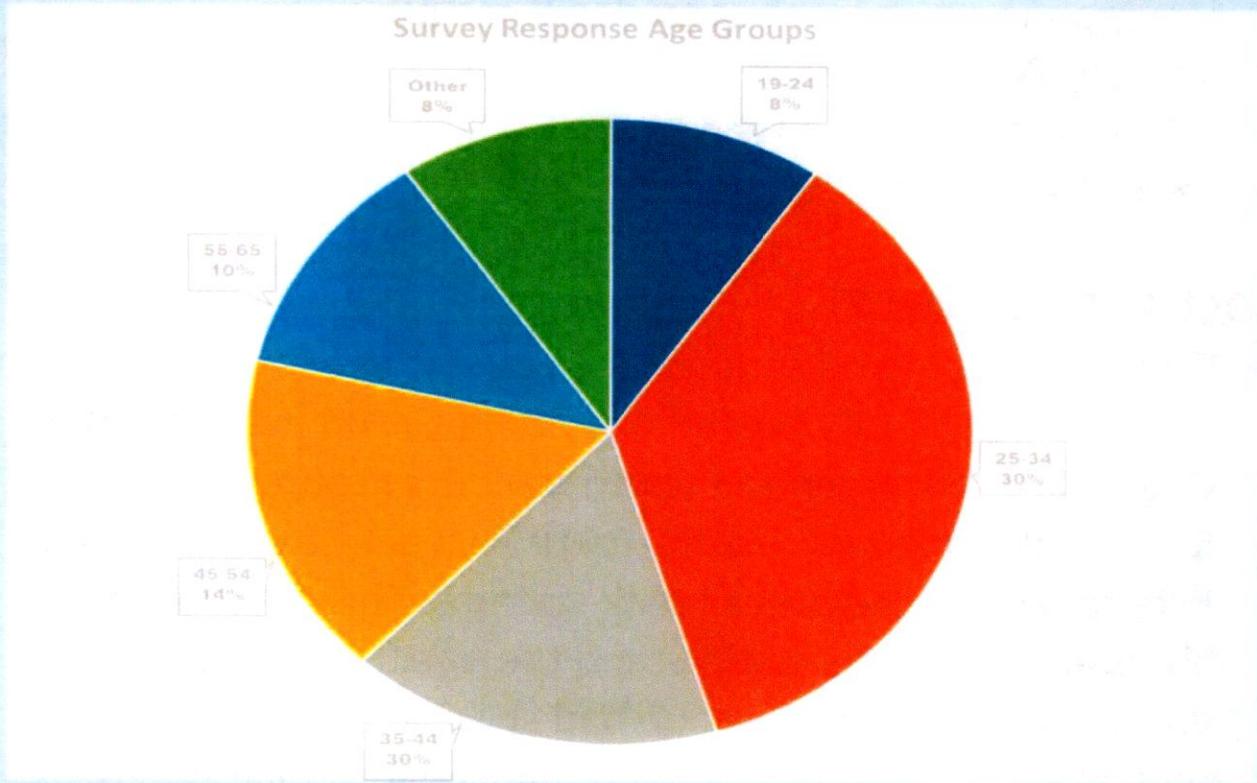
### **FOCUS GROUP INPUT**

- To truly understand some of the specific needs in the community, the City hosted one Focus Group meeting. The City invited the organized youth athletics groups such as Mathis Little League, Mathis Youth Football League and MTX Elite to discuss the overall park systems. This meeting was imperative to better understand the needs within specific groups. Although each group had specific needs for its organization, many of the participants had similar needs regarding the overall park system.

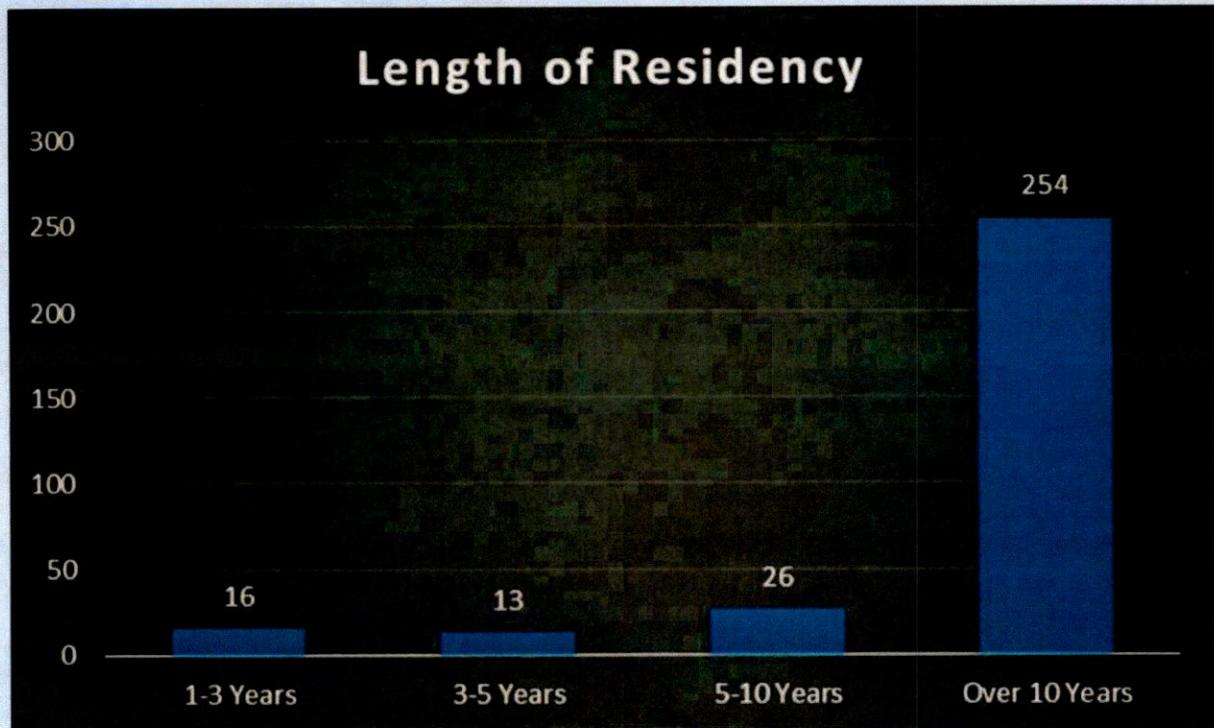
### **THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF SOME OF THE KEY FINDINGS FROM THE FOCUS GROUP**

- The sports organizations would like the city to focus on adding sports lighting for all baseball, softball and football fields.
- Adding a splash pad or a pool
- All parks need playground set upgrades
- Renovating of the existing restrooms to accommodate the needs of more park visitors.
- More parking spots
- ADA compliance
- Lack of activities at the park for all generations

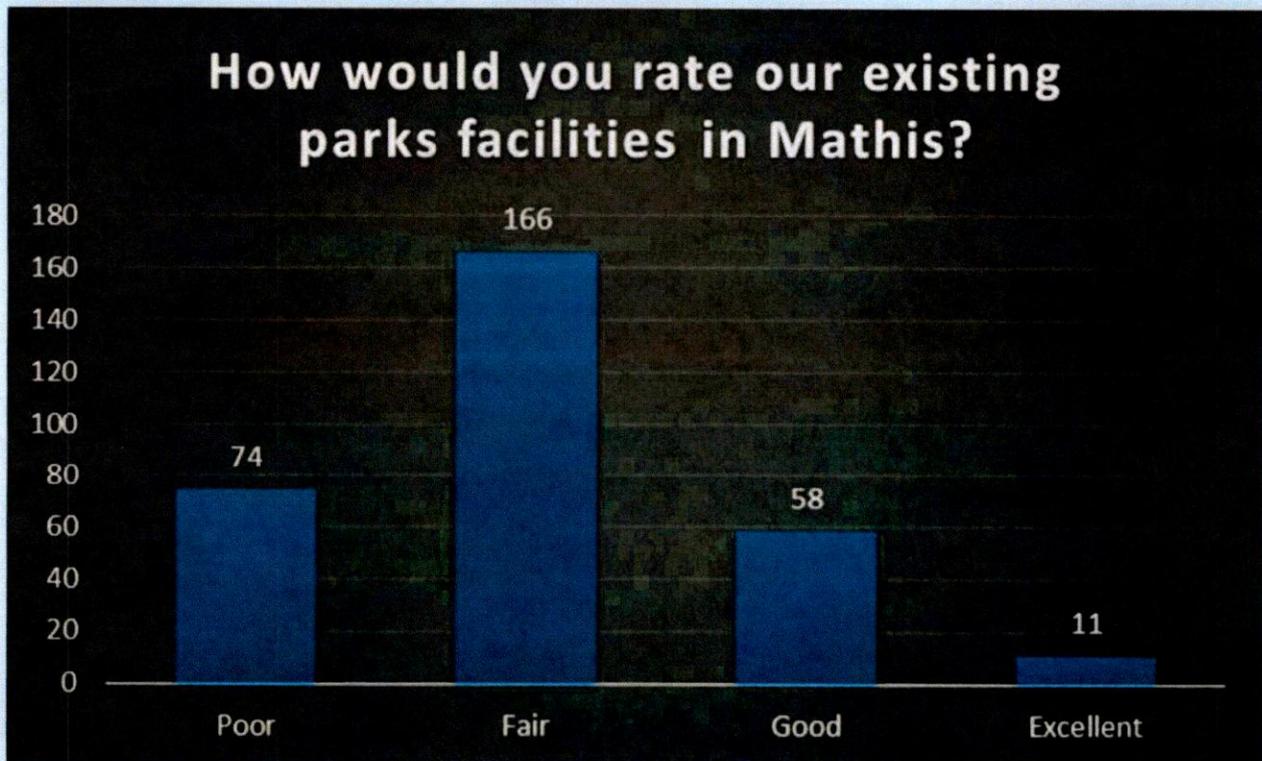
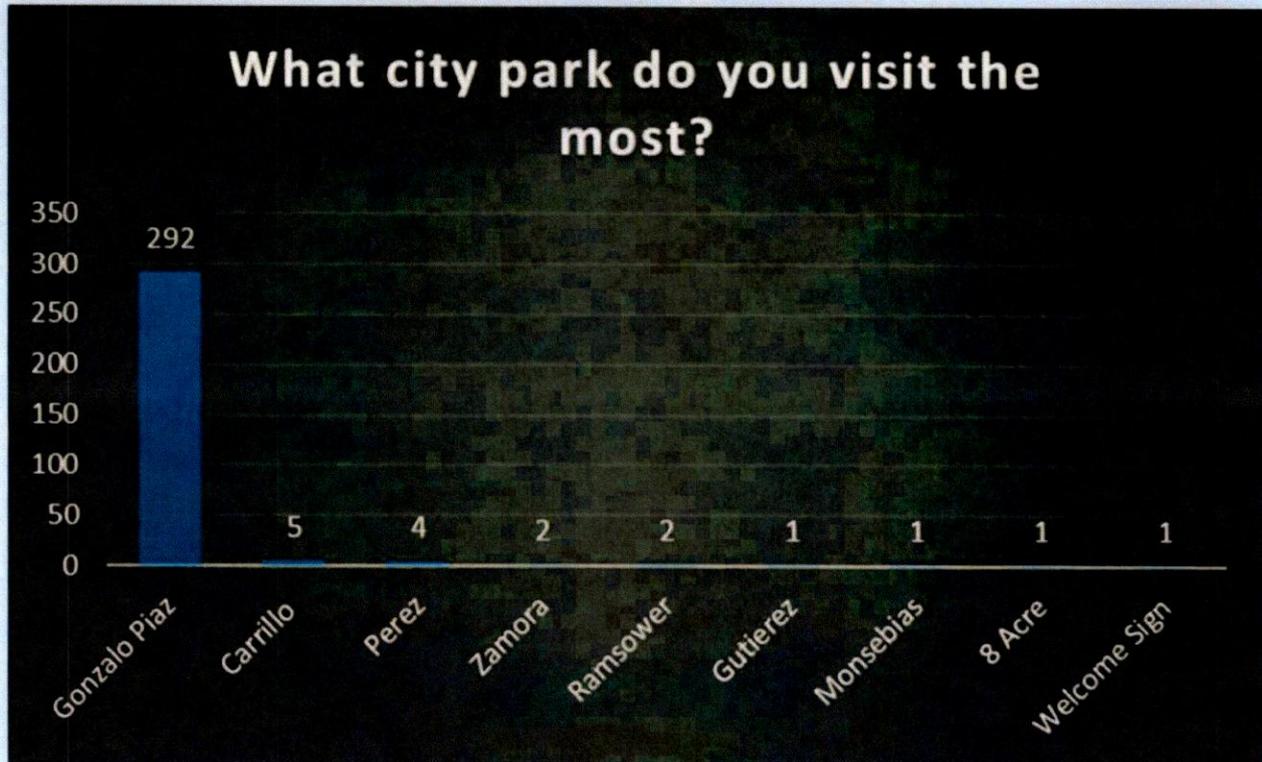
# IX. Final Survey Responses – 309 Total Responses



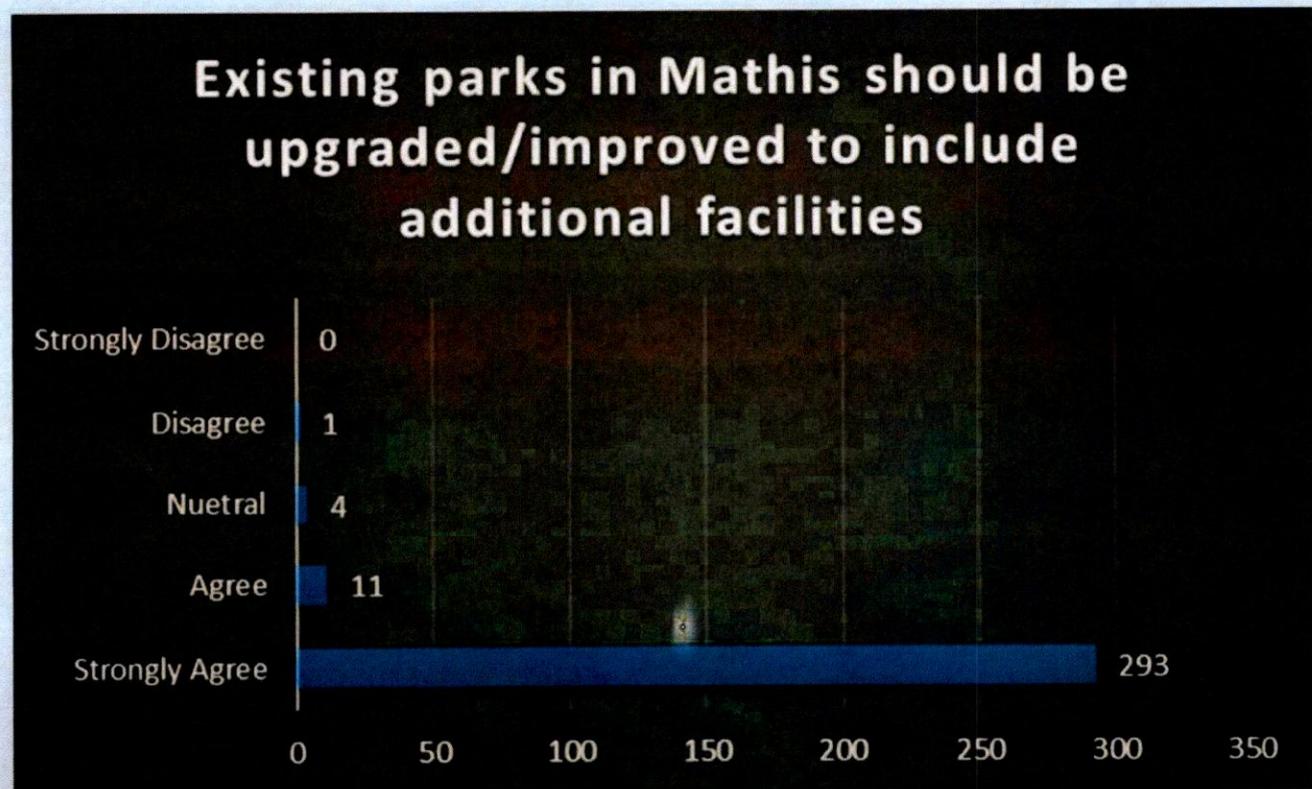
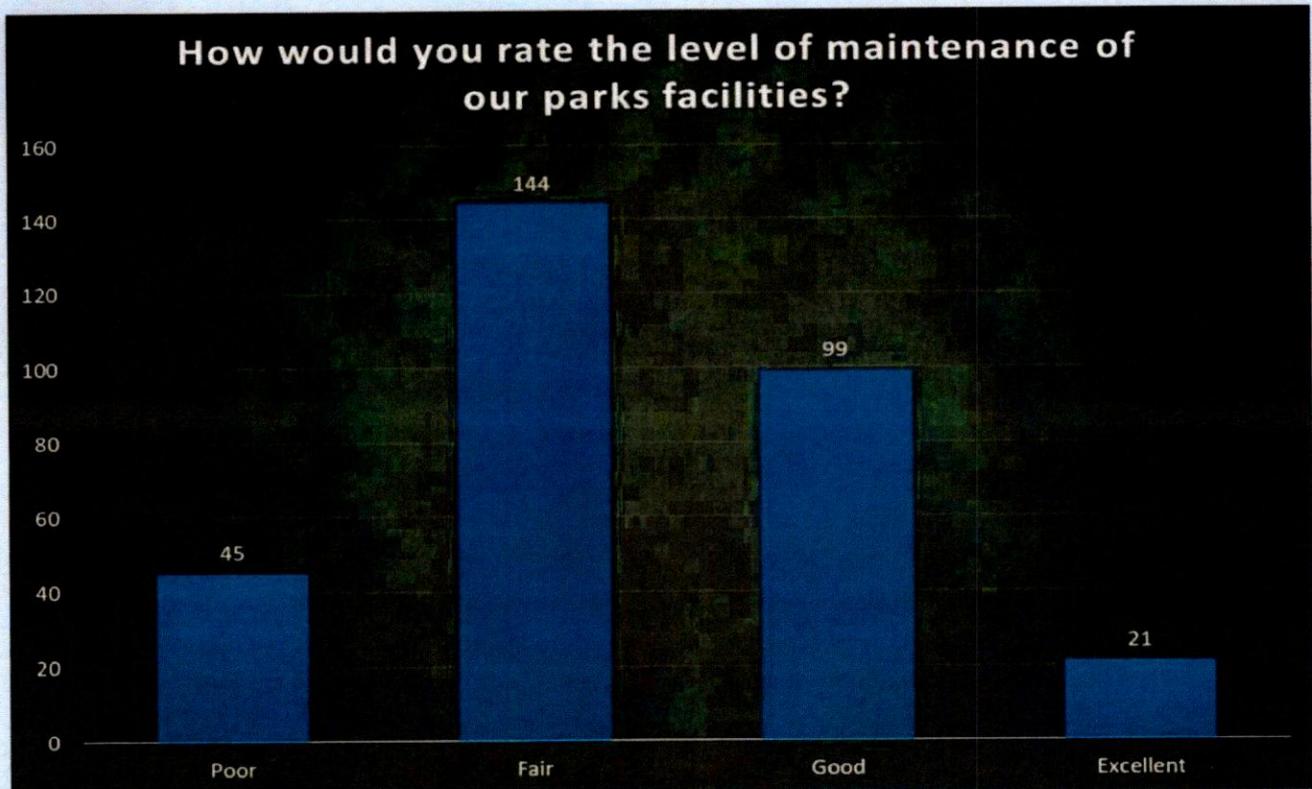
## IX. Final Survey Responses



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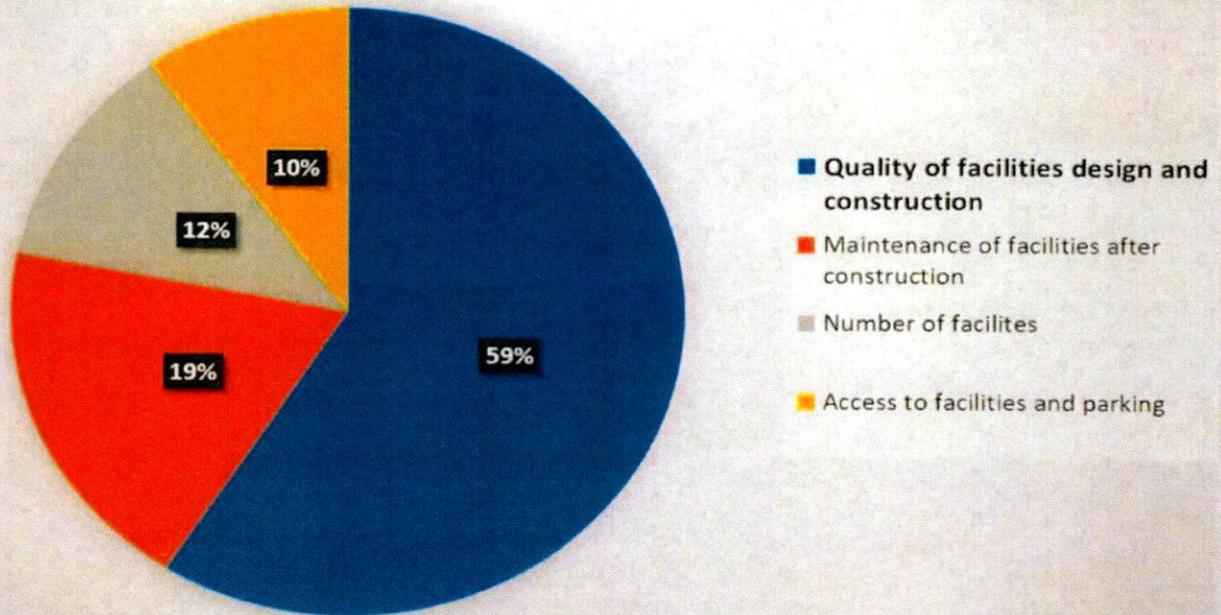


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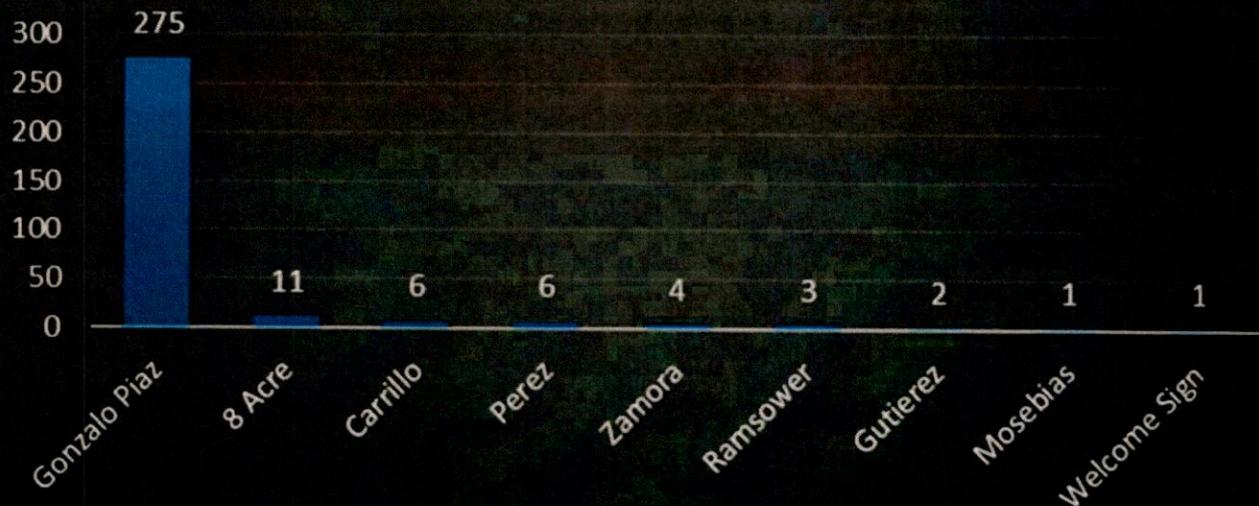


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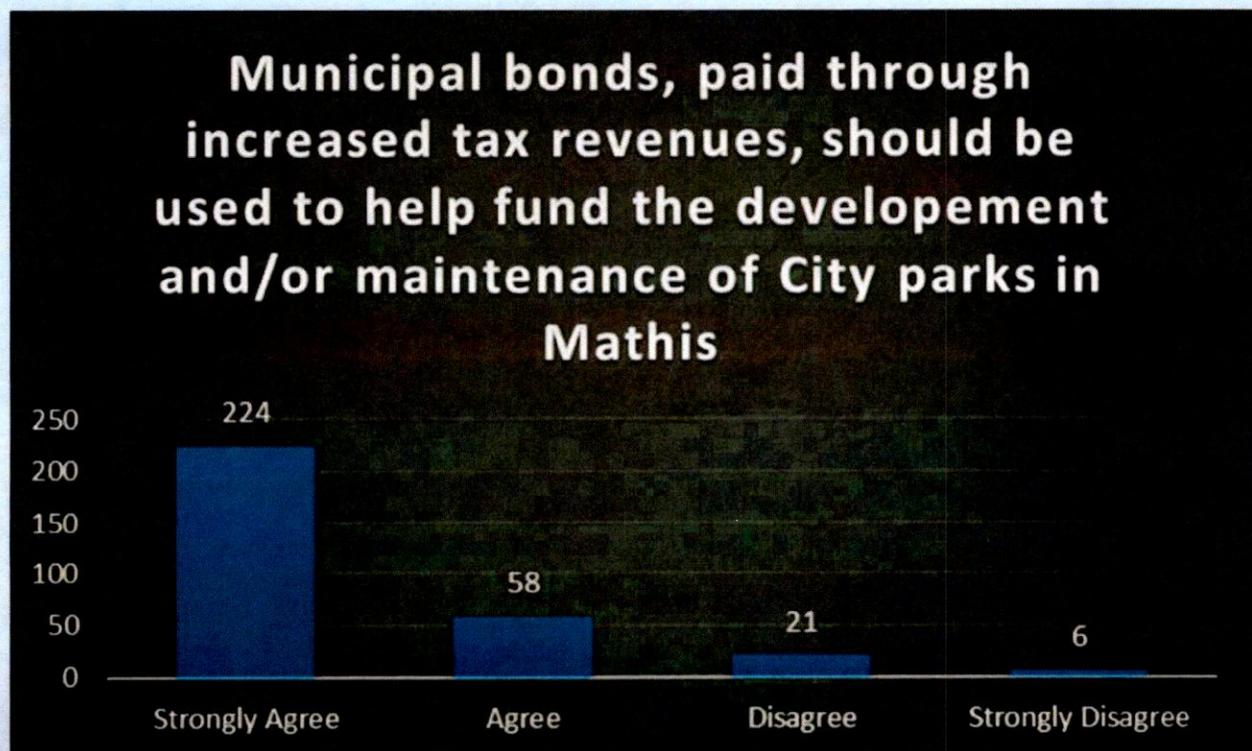
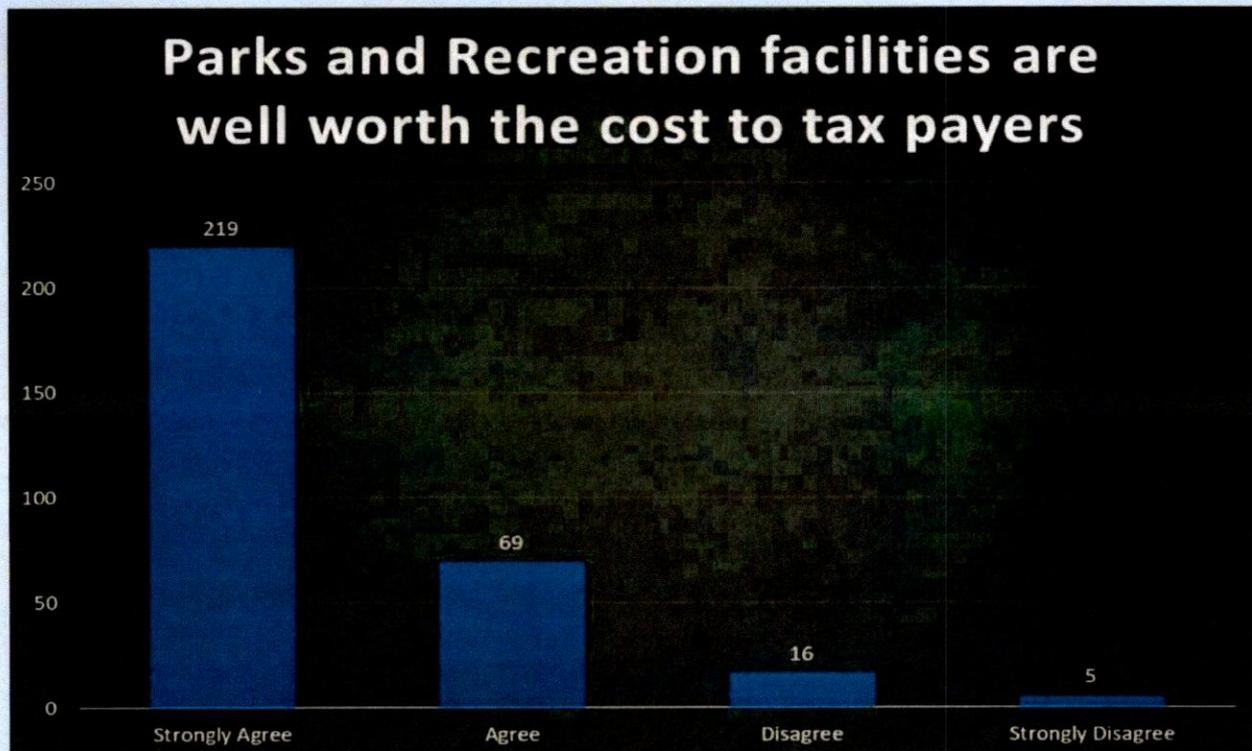
The most important consideration regarding future parks in Mathis is:



Which parks needs would you like to see further improved, or upgraded in Mathis?



## IX. Final Survey Responses



## IX. Final Survey Responses

What do you like most about our City parks?

1. Providing different sport choices in one location
2. Walking trails at Gonzalo & Perez Park
3. Open spaces at the parks
4. All City Parks are well maintained
5. Parks are family oriented

What do you like least about our City parks?

1. Not enough lighting at all City Parks
2. Outdated playground equipment
3. Outdated restroom facility
4. Need more define and designated parking at all parks
5. No water fountains throughout the City Parks

What improvements would you like to see made within our City parks?

1. Sports lighting at the baseball/softball and football fields
2. Splash Pad or Pool
3. Updating the Parks restrooms facility
4. Activities for all generations
5. ADA compliance at all City Parks/Handicap swings

What recreation activities or programs would you like to see within our City parks?

1. Sports lightings
2. Splash Pad
3. Community Pool
4. Basketball Pavilion
5. Covered Pavilion with Picnic Tables for gatherings

## **X. NEEDS AND PRIORITIES**

The needs and priorities of the City of Mathis are based on input from the Focus Group Meeting, citizens survey input, the goals and objectives, city staff recommendations and professional opinion. The following needs and priorities have been identified as important areas of focus for the parks and recreational system for the City of Mathis through 2033.

### ***EXISTING PARK NEEDS***

Sports organizations in the City of Mathis have grown over the past year, and because of this, many of the existing parks have been well-maintained over the years. However despite many of the parks needing repairs, no upgrades or enhancements have been made within the City. As the organizations continue to flourish, it is essential that the City maintains, updates, and renovates the existing parks within the systems. By way of illustration, Gonzalo Paiz Park, located in Mathis at 525 N Frio Street, is the biggest and most frequently used park, that has not had any major renovations in nearly twenty years. Many of the parks features are obsolete, outdated and potentially dangerous to park users. Despite the continuing efforts by our city parks employees try to make the park a safer space for the community, many residents believe it needs some major upgrades. This park consists of natural open space and a baseball field currently undergoing improvements located near the entrance.

The park is in need of a complete redevelopment and some minor improvements like repainting existing structures. In addition, the existing front field should continue renovations as well as adding some sports lighting to all the baseball, softball, football and soccer fields. This sports lighting will be a great addition for practices, games and recreation play for the community.

### ***NEW PARKS NEEDS***

Sports lighting has been ranked as the number one priority based on the citizens survey. Baseball, Softball and Football are growing sports and these organizations have seen a rise in participants over the past several years. According to the Focus Groups the City needs to concentrate on continuing to develop Gonzalo Paiz Park over the next few years in order to provide a “complex that is incomparable to other youth complexes”. The City should acquire and develop small spaces throughout the community among areas where recreational areas are lacking. The City should appoint a Parks Advisory Board which consist of a seven-member team to:

- Advise and make recommendations to the City Council relating to acquisition.
- Planning and development of City of Mathis parks
- Maintain communication with other organizations, associations, and residents regarding City of Mathis Parks.
- Advocate to decision makers and the public for parks purposes.

## **XI. RECREATION PROGRAM ANALYSIS**

### ***ATHLETIC NEEDS -***

Over the past 23 years, the City has constructed baseball fields, and one softball field, while MYFL is currently redeveloping a football/soccer field with the funds they raised. In order to better understand the needs of the youth sports organizations, a focus group meeting was held with a representative from each organization. The number one request from each group was sports lighting not only to baseball/softball fields, but to the football/soccer field as well. Currently there are no other baseball/softball fields for the community or for other recreational use by other select baseball teams. The number one request by both contracted softball and baseball organizations was to add sports lighting for practices, games, and tournaments.

### ***MATHIS LITTLE LEAGUE-***

Mathis Little League is a 501c3 organization who serves the children in our community from the ages of 4-14 years of age. Currently, they have a six month contract with the City of Mathis in effect from January- June, with their sports complex located at Gonzalo Paiz Park. The Girls Youth Softball participants have increased greatly throughout the years. At this time, the only Girls Youth Softball field is located at the Mathis Little League Fields at Gonzalo Paiz Park, which is currently under contract with Mathis Little League and MTX Elite twelve months out of the year. In June 2023 Mathis Little League purchased a new score board for the Girls Youth Softball field.

## ***MATHIS YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE & CHEER (MYFL)-***

Mathis Youth Football League (MYFL) is a 501 (c) (3) organization that serves children in our community from the ages of 4-14 years of age. Currently, they have a contract with the City of Mathis for the use of the football/soccer field twelve months out of the year. MYFL has been around for 10 years and is steadily growing every year. They currently have 180 participants and ten teams in their program. MYFL currently partners with the Mathis High School to host games at Pirate Stadium until redevelopment of their field at Gonzalo Paiz Park is completed. Cheer and football practices are held at Gonzalo Paiz Park. The biggest need for MYFL is sports lighting to host their practices and games.

## ***MTX ELITE-***

MTX ELITE is a 501c3 organization who serves the children in our community. Currently, they have a contract with the City of Mathis for use of the front field twelve months out of the year. From July to December and when its not in use during the Mathis Little League term, MTX Elite is contracted to use the Mathis Little League fields.

## ***YOUTH SOCCER***

In the past, Mathis had a soccer league. Unfortunately, due to no longer hosting one, many residents who participate in this sport currently have to travel out of town to join leagues. With the help of MYFL they are currently redeveloping the soccer field to accommodate the needs of soccer and football. With the new renovation, we're hopeful it will bring back a league with high attendance rate's for practices, games and tournaments to the area.

## ***YOUTH BASKETBALL***

Mathis Little Dribblers had 230 participants this year. The City of Mathis currently does not have either an indoor facility, or outdoor pavilion. The Mathis Little Dribblers program currently practices and plays games at the Mathis ISD Event Center. With the continued projected growth of basketball each year, there is a immediate need for additional basketball courts to provide access to the community and organizations for recreational use.

## ***XII. GENERAL PARK INFORMATION***

### ***PARTNERSHIPS***

Over the past year, the City has successfully partnered with Mathis Little League, Mathis Youth Football League, and MTX Elite organizations. It is imperative that the City continues to partner with and support with these organizations to better maintain the facilities within the community.

### ***MAINTENANCE***

The City should reallocate some of the funding spent on development and focus on maintaining the Parks and Recreation system at a higher level. Maintenance crews and maintenance budget needs to grow in order to keep up with the existing park system and the quality of life in our parks.

### ***NATURAL AREAS NEEDS***

Some citizens expressed the need to preserve and conserve natural areas throughout the community and surrounding areas. The City should reconstruct and enhance the pier at Gonzalo Paiz Park.

### ***WALKING TRAILS***

The City currently has two walking trails one at Gonzalo Paiz Park, and one at Perez Park. These walking trails benefit all age groups and different levels of mobility. The city should allocate some funds for repaving of the walking trails to keep them updated and safe for the citizens.

### **XIII. PRIORITIES**

The following Park and Recreational priorities are based on results from the Citizen surveys, Focus group meeting, City Council individual meetings and City staff. The following list is depicted in order of priority and should be pursued as recreational priorities within the City.

<b>RANK</b>	<b>FACILITY</b>
1	<b>BASEBALL/SOFTBALL/FOOTBALL SPORTS LIGHTING</b>
2	<b>SPLASH PAD (or) POOL</b>
3	<b>NEW OR UPGRADE RESTROOM FACILITY</b>
4	<b>PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT UPGRADES &amp; MAINTENANCE</b>
5	<b>DEFINED PARKING AND DESIGNATED PARKING</b>
6	<b>ADA COMPLIANCE FACILITIES</b>
7	<b>LACK OF ACTIVITIES FOR ALL GENERATIONS</b>

The City of Mathis should focus on the needs and priorities that were presented by the residents in the citizen survey and the focus group meeting in order to continue to provide a successful park system. The overall priorities are as follow:

- Adding sports lighting to the baseball/softball and football fields.
- Adding a splash pad or pool to one of the City's Parks.

- Adding new or upgrading the preexisting restroom facility at Gonzalo Paiz Park to accommodate the needs of visitors.
- The preexisting playground equipment and metal structures.
- Visiting the park on the weekends during a softball, baseball, or football game has visitors scrambling around looking for a parking space. Visitors tend to park on the grass or against the fence making it unsafe for the children who run and play around the park.
- ADA compliance at all seven City parks. Under the federal regulations from 1990 when parks and recreation facilities are built or altered, they must comply with the ADA standards for Accessible Design (ADA Standards), which require inclusion of features, such as accessible parking spaces, routes, toilet facilities, and spectator seating areas.
- Lack of activities for all generations.
- Renovate and enhance Gonzalo Paiz Park.
- Continue to redevelop and enhance the existing park system as it ages.
- Allocate additional monies towards the maintenance of the existing park system.
- Continue to develop and enhance all the sports fields in order to be incomparable to other sports fields.
- Operate and maintain future and existing parks at high level.

## **XIV. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### Existing Park Upgrades:

Continue to enhance and upgrade the park system in order to continually provide a successful park system that meets the needs of the community. Pending available funding and debt capacity, the City should focus on the installation of new sports lighting, new or upgraded playground equipment in existing parks, and as they continue to grow over the years, specifically Gonzalo Paiz Park, per citizen Master Plan survey.

### Natural Open Spaces:

Acquire, preserve, and develop key natural areas for primitive and passive recreational opportunities, as well as for natural habitats and trail corridors.

### Park Operations & Maintenance:

In order to maintain the park system and public spaces that meets or supersedes residents expectations, the City should continually review and update the park operation and maintenance budgets. The City has developed an incredible network of parks throughout the City and it is recommended that the City allocates additional monies each year towards the maintenance of the existing park system.

## **XV. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE**

It is imperative to note that the City of Mathis has developed a very successful park system. Due to the size of the community and existing park system, the City should primarily focus on maintaining and upgrading the parks over the next ten years while also continuing to acquire and develop our City parks. A primary driver controlling the City's ability to follow the proposed implementation schedule is centered around our ability to fund these improvements. The following table depicts the City of Mathis project list for the next ten years

The City should evaluate and take advantage of any unforeseen opportunities which may arise, not identified in this implementation schedule, as long as it meets the goals and objectives of this plan. The City should continually and actively pursue partnerships and non-traditional funding sources to expedite implementation where possible to alleviate some of the burden of the development expenses on residents.

It is important to note that the proposed implementation schedule is intended to be a flexible guide for the acquisition, development and enhancement of parks, recreational facilities, and open spaces over the next ten years.

DATE	PROJECT **Target Grants 1 <sup>st</sup> before Bonds**	ESTIMATED COST **ongoing cost due to maintenance**	POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES
2023-2024	Sports Lighting for the Baseball/Softball/Football Fields and ongoing costs	\$ 1.2-\$1.5 million (\$200,000 per field) \$200,000/6.5%/20 years/ \$17,892.00 1.5 million/6.5%/20years/\$134,196.00	Donations General Funds Bonds Grants
2023-2026	Splash Pad (or) Pool Accessories, Chemicals, Engineers, and ongoing costs	\$125,000 – \$1 million \$125,000/6.5%/10years/\$17,028.00 1 million/6.5%/15years/\$104,532	Donations General Funds Bonds Grants
2024-2027	New Restroom Facilities and renovations and ongoing costs	\$40,000 -\$200,000 \$200,000/6.5%/20years/\$17,892	Donations General Funds Bonds Grants
2024-2026	Playground equipment upgrades to all seven City Parks with sunshades	\$50,000- \$500,000 \$500,000/6.5%/15years/\$52,260	Donations General Funds Bonds Grants
2024-2027	Parking Lots for all seven parks	\$25,000-\$300,000 \$300,000/6.5%/20years/\$26,892	Donations General Funds Bonds Grants
2024-2026	ADA Compliance	\$50,000-\$150,000 \$150,000/6.5%/20years/\$133,416	Donations General Funds Bonds Grants
2024-2026	Lack of Activities Recreational Specialist Salary	\$40,000-\$75,000	General Funds

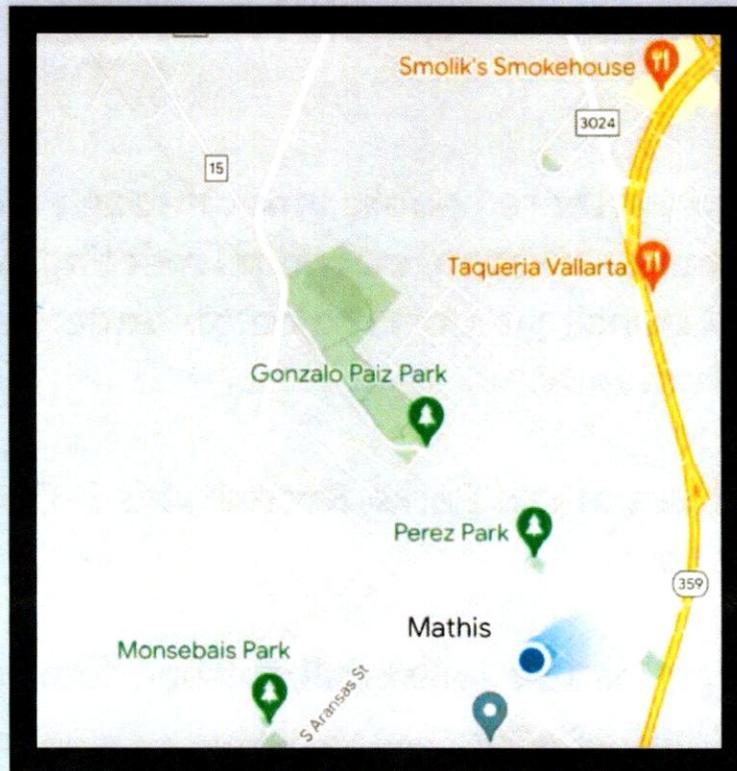
## XVI. SUMMARY

The City of Mathis gathered public input through a citizen survey, focus group workshop, individual meetings with the Mayor and City Council members to better understand the needs of the community.

The main objectives of this Parks, Recreations & Open Space Master Plan are to:

- Add sports lighting to all baseball/softball/football fields
- Add a Splash Pad or Pool
- Add new or upgrade restroom facilities
- Add new updated Playground equipment & maintenance
- Add defined parking and parking spots
- Add ADA compliance to all parks
- Add more activities for all generations
- Allocate additional monies each year towards maintaining the existing park systems, especially at the sports fields.
- Continue to partner with private and public organizations to enhance the park system.

This master plan update is to be utilized as a guideline which should be reviewed annually and updated every five years to reflect the unique recreational needs of the changing population and demographics of Mathis. The City should take advantage of any unforeseen opportunities not identified in the plan that may arise, such as donations of land and/or facilities, as long as the actions meet the intent of the goals, objectives and recommendations of this plan.

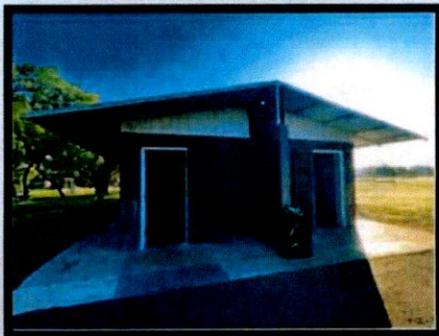
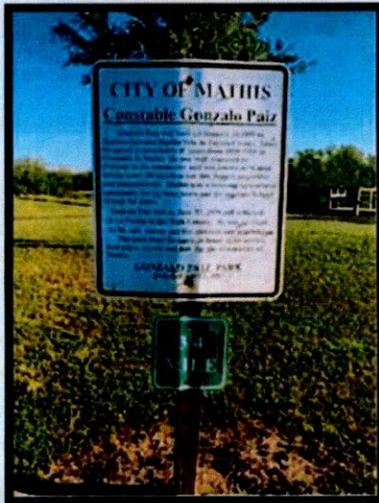
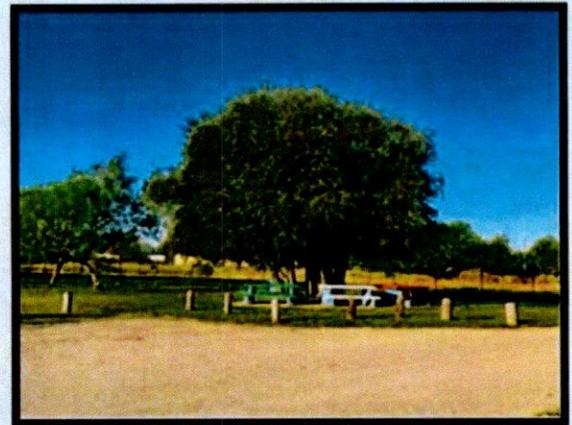
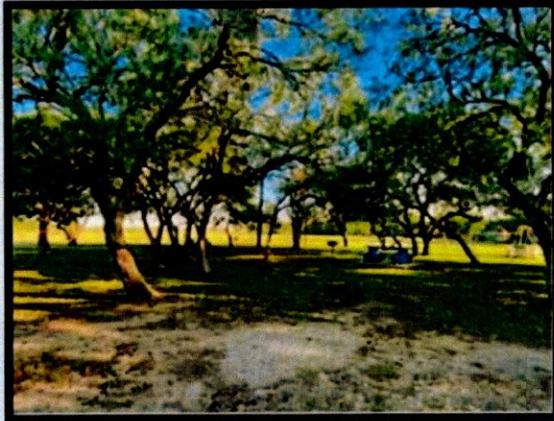
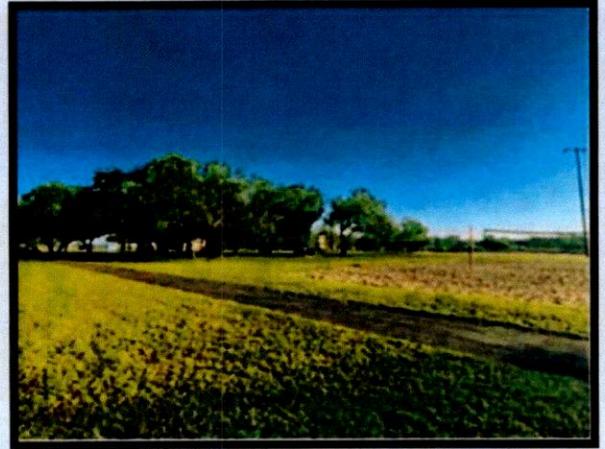
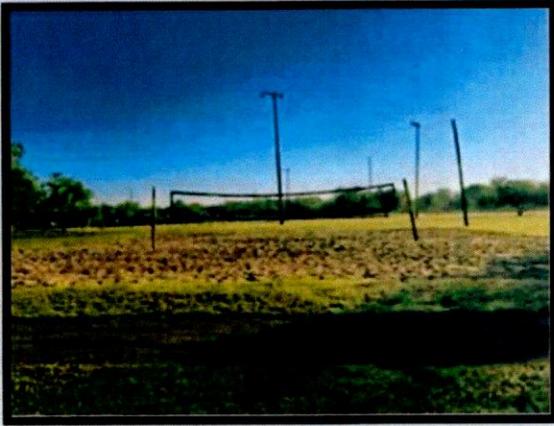


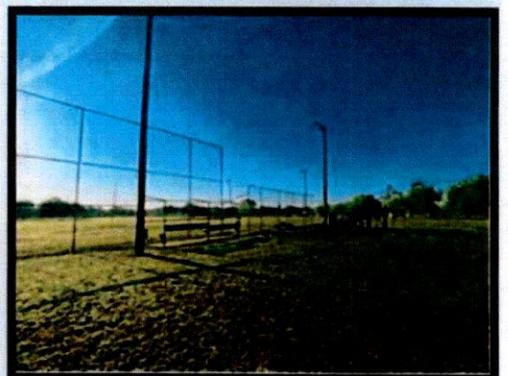
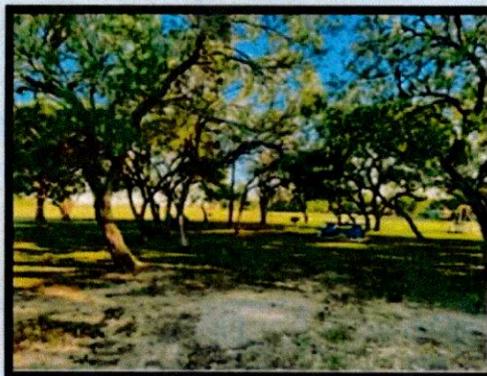
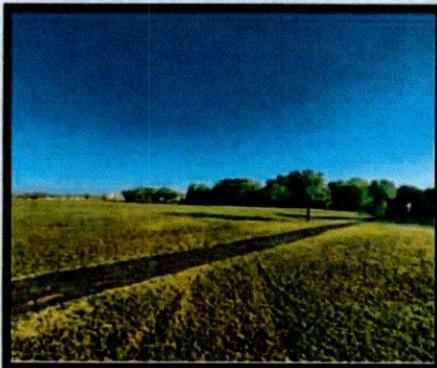
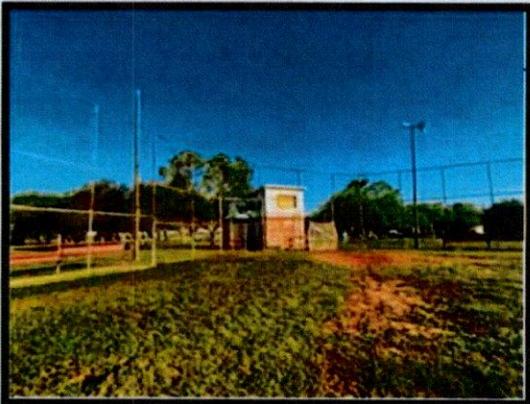
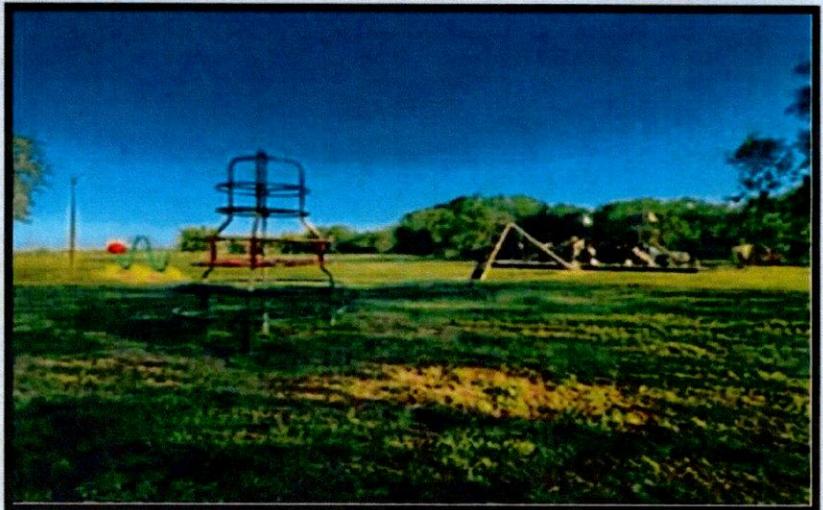
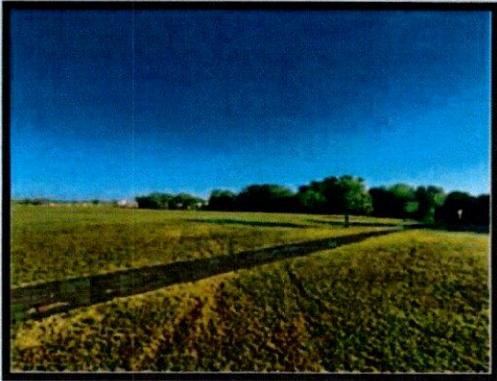
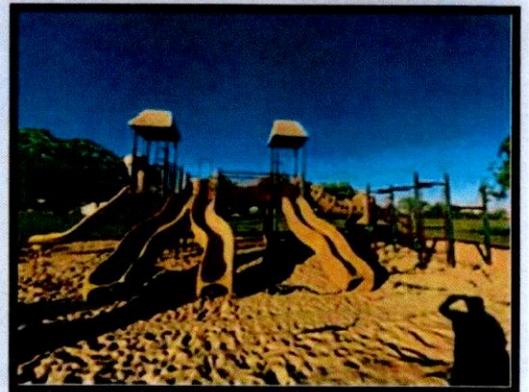
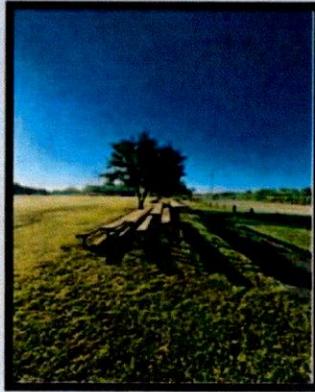
## **Gonzalo Paiz Park**

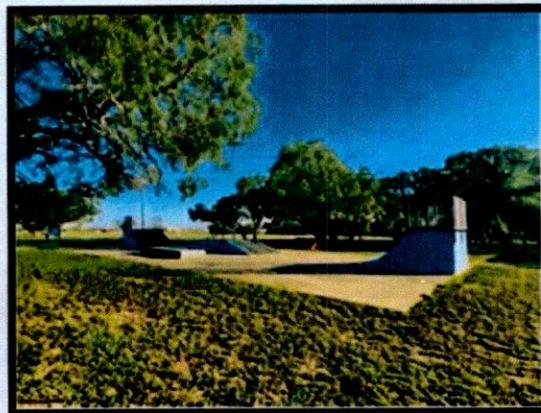
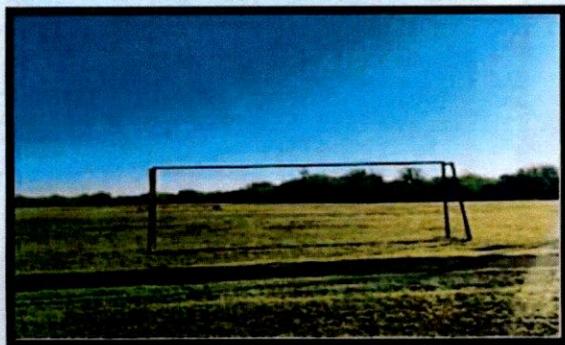
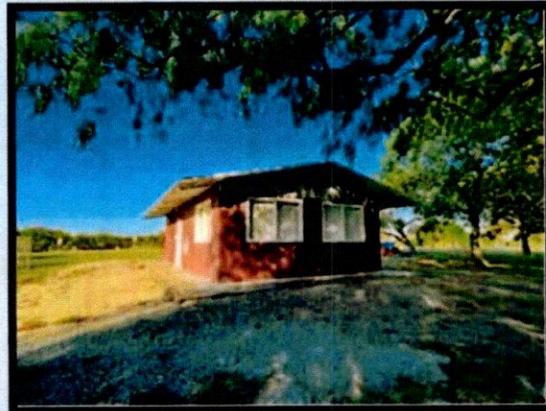
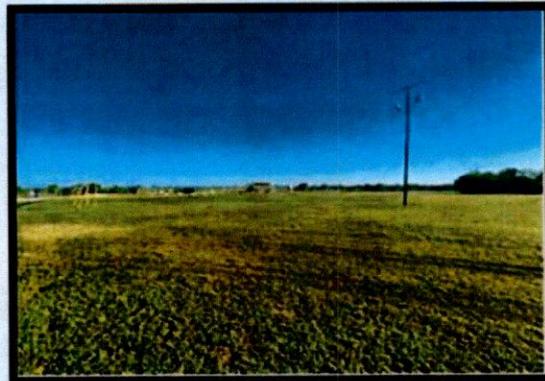
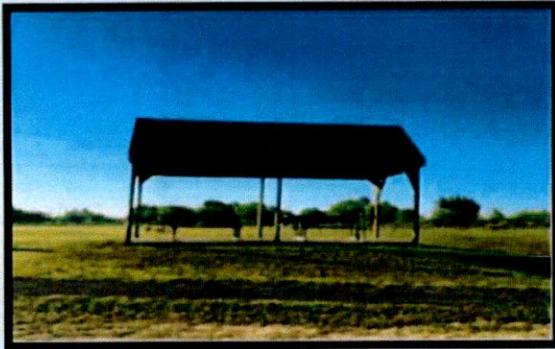
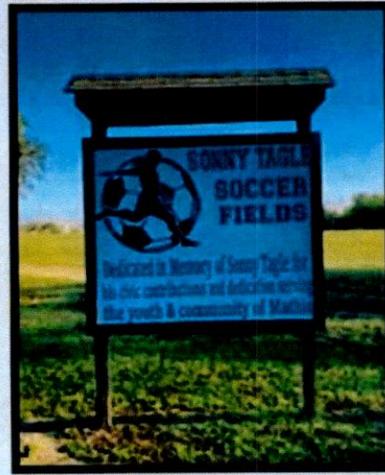
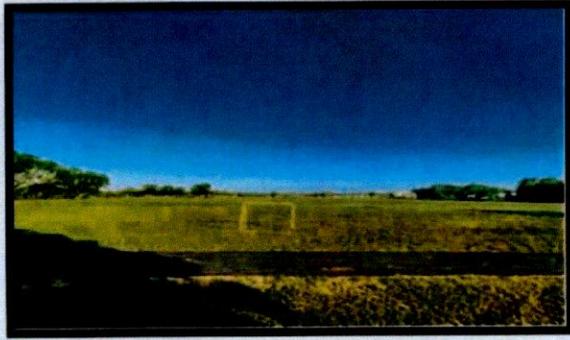
The community park is located at 525 N. Frio. It has a big playground and two sets of swings, soccer fields, a basketball court, as well as a skate park area. It also has three baseball fields, one tee ball field, one girl softball fields, two enclosed tennis courts and a batting cage. The park also has a one mile walking trail which many citizens utilize to walk and enjoy the scenery throughout the park.

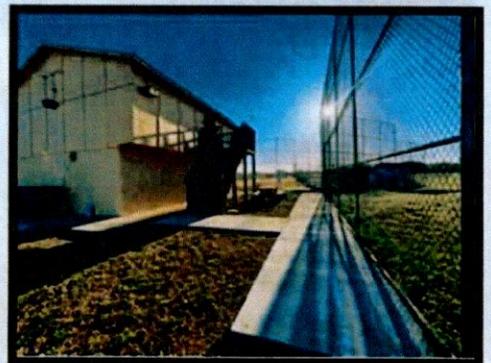
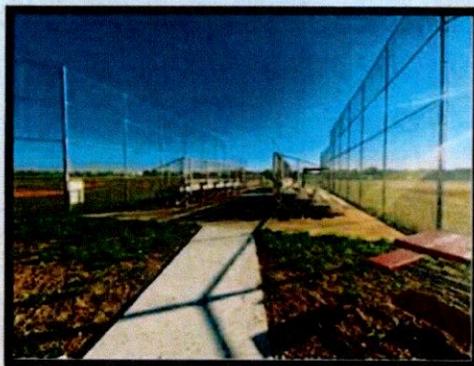
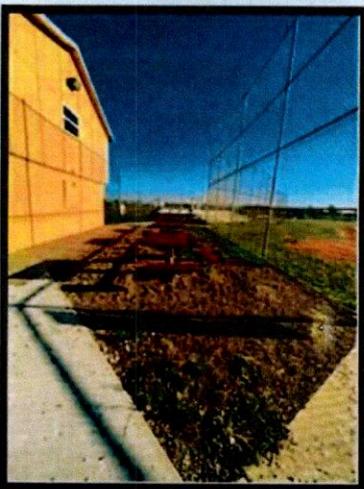
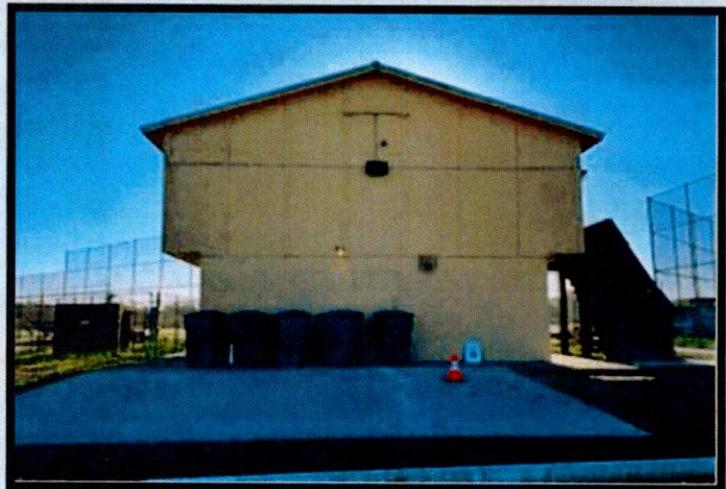
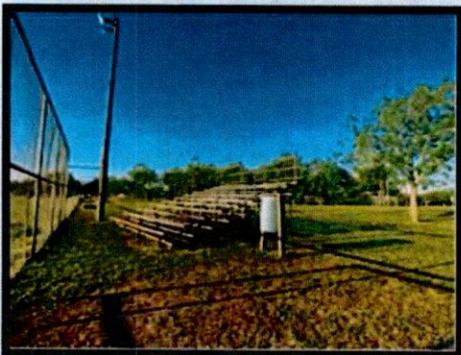
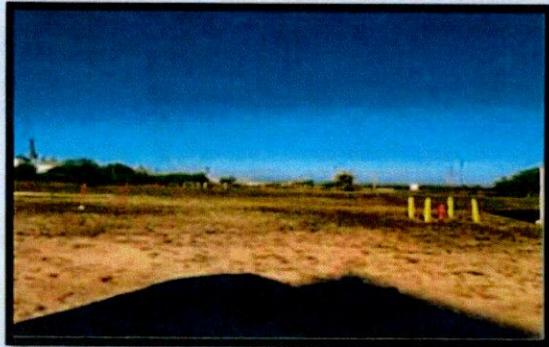
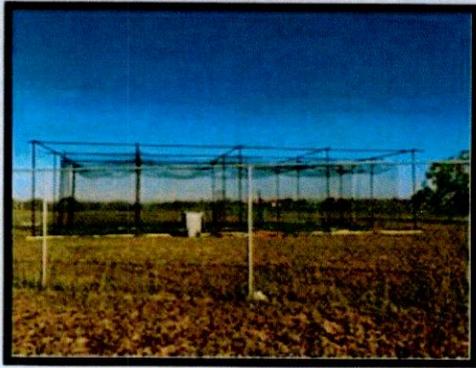
Necessary improvements identified were: pressure wash and clean the tennis court, repair the existing lighting in the tennis area, paint the remaining picnic tables, repaint the tennis court backboard, repaint and repair concession stand, restrooms, and repair the existing pavilion due to it leaning.

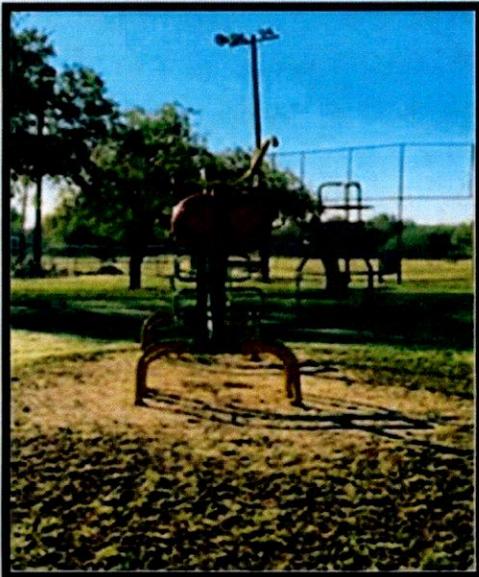
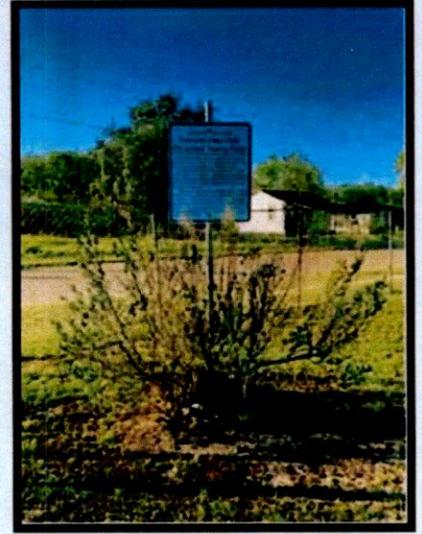
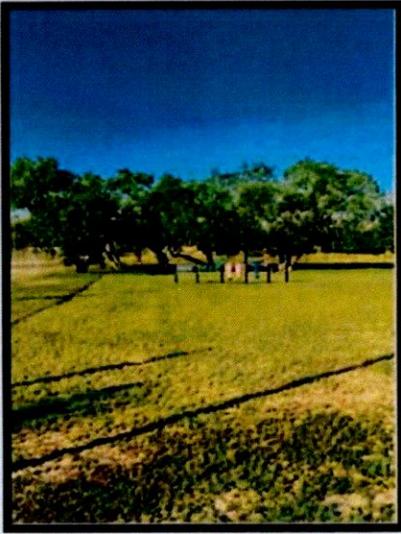
Needs: Playground equipment is outdated and needs to be upgraded, water fountains, covered benches through out the park. Renovating the restrooms to accommodate more than one person, and adding sports lighting to the baseball/softball and football fields.

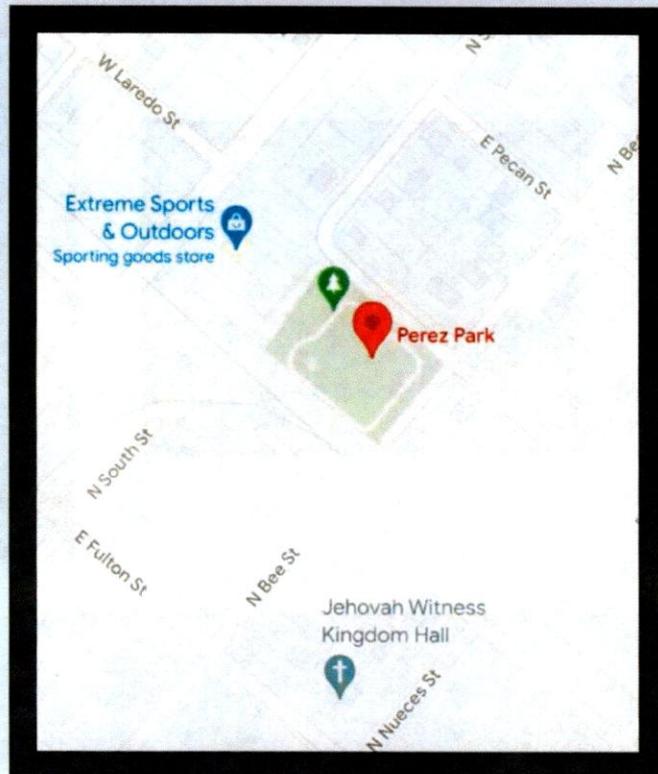








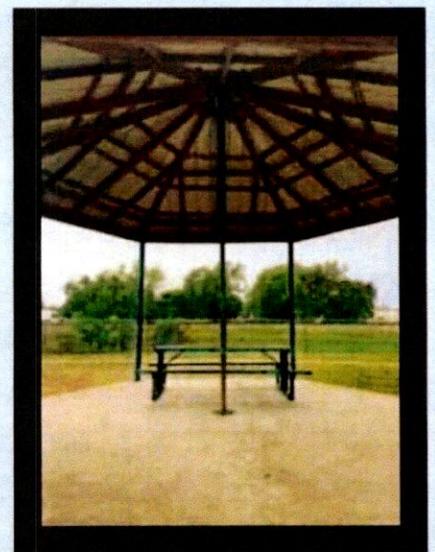


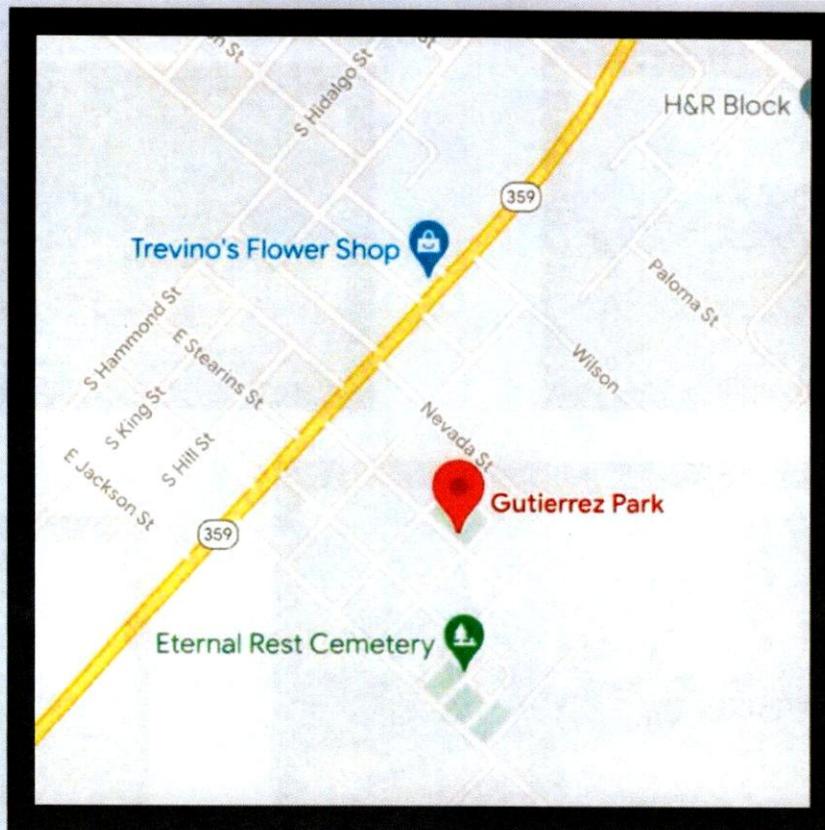


## SP (Specialist Four) DANIEL FLORES PEREZ JR. MEMORIAL PARK

This community park, located at 417 North Bee Street. This dedicated to the memory of SP 4 Daniel Flores Perez Jr. This American Hero called Mathis, Texas his hometown. Daniel is honored on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Panel 16E, Line 69. This park has a playground area, swing set, see-saws, picnic tables, BBQ grills, a pavilion, exercise stations, and a walking trail. The overall condition of the park is considerably average, but in need of vast improvement.

Necessary improvements identified were: Updating current exercise stations, repave current walk/running track, till and clean up sand play area, paint the pavilion, clean and remove dead palm leaves, paint existing picnic tables. Needs: Playground set upgrade, and adding a water fountain and covered benches. This park holds several events throughout the year, yet doesn't have an onsite facility. The pavilion needs repainting, the walking trail needs repaving, and the concrete picnic tables need replacing or renovating.



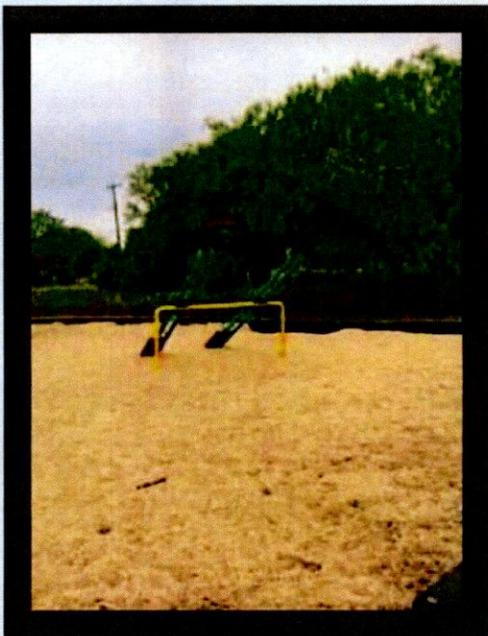


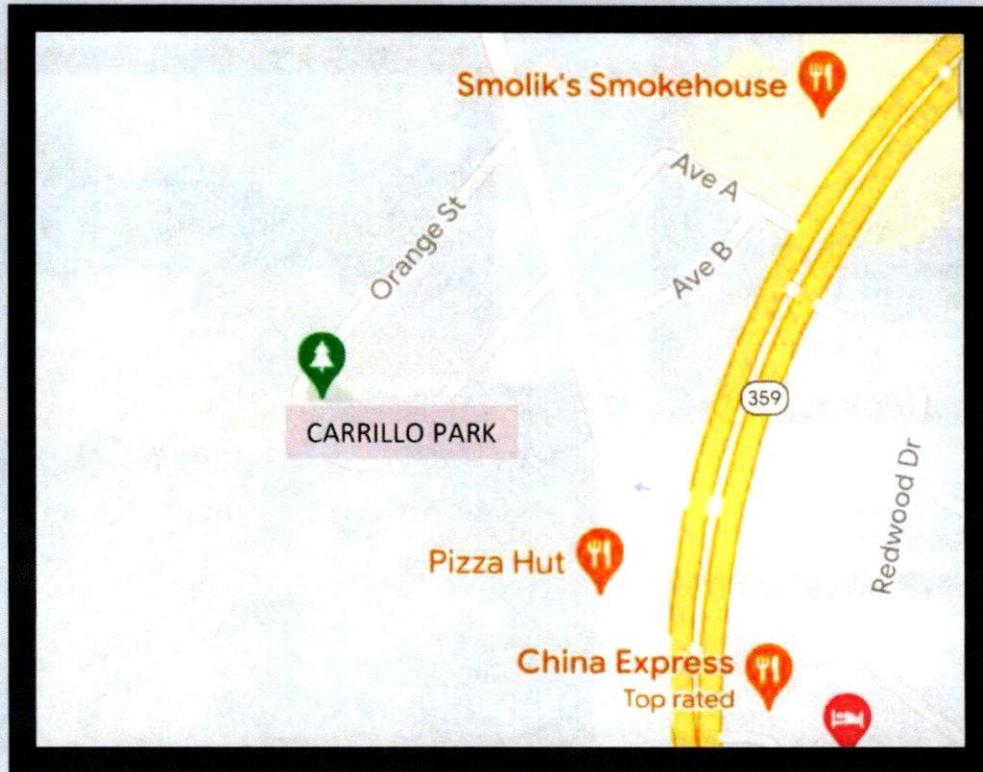
## **SGT. ERISTEO GUTIERREZ JR. MEMORIAL PARK**

This neighborhood park, located at 822 South Gardenia Street, is dedicated to the memory of SGT Eristeo Gutierrez Jr. This American Hero called Mathis, Texas his hometown. On October 10, 1968 Sergeant Gutierrez was declared a casualty of the Vietnam War. Eristeo is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington DC and his name is inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 41w, Line 39. This park has a playground area, swing set, and see-saws. Overall condition of the park and playground area are above average condition.

Necessary improvements identified were: Replace plastic landscaping border around the memorial sign with timber wood landscaping. Existing plastic playground border needs to be replaced, and replacing or renovation current concrete picnic tables.

Needs: Upgrading the current playground set and adding a new plastic border, removing or renovating the existing the picnic tables, and adding two covered benches for visitors.



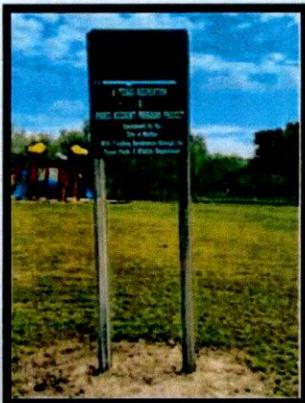


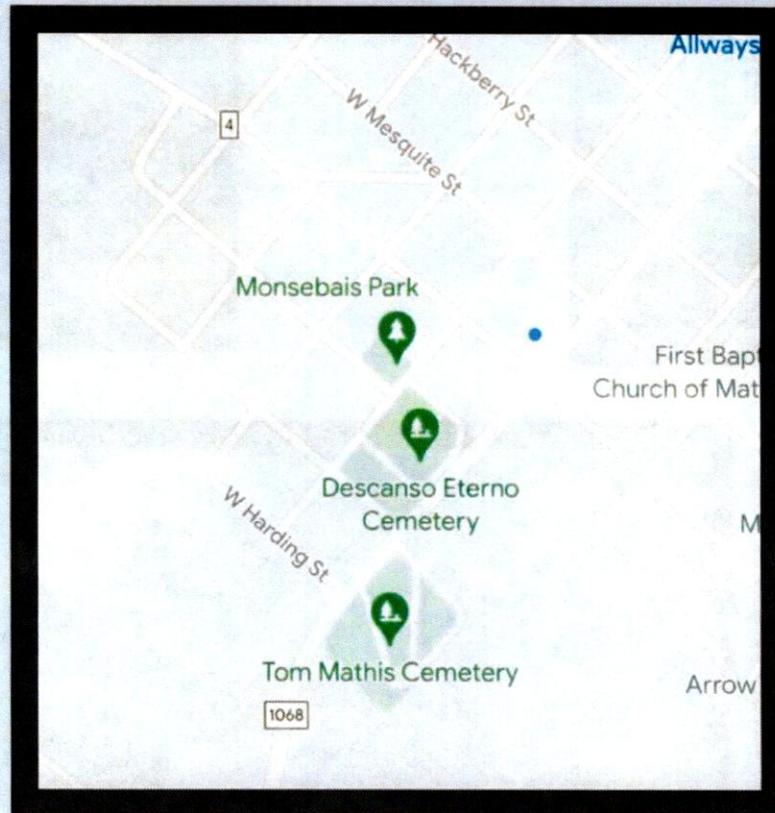
## OTILIA M. CARRILLO PARK

This neighborhood park, located at 205 Orange Drive, is named after Ms. Otilia M. Carrillo, a Mathis native and resident from Orange Drive. It has a playground area, swing set, and see-saws. The overall condition and appearance is above average due to community involvement from Ms. Carrillo.

Necessary improvements identified were: lighting improvements, covered picnic area, till the sand area, replace the damaged plastic playground borders, pressure wash the plastic play area, and remove and reposition the existing BBQ grill closer to the picnic table.

Needs: Upgrading the existing play ground set, and adding a new plastic border around the playground set. The park has one picnic table and BBQ area, and could benefit from adding two covered benches throughout the park.



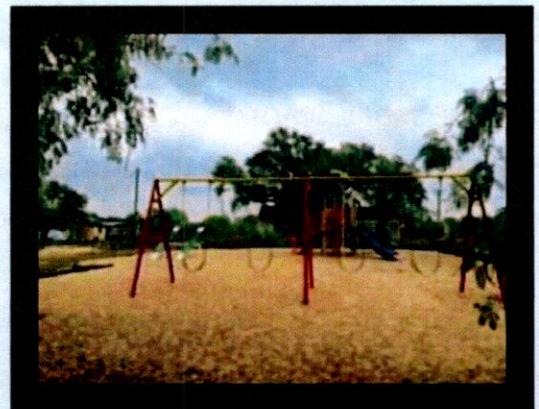


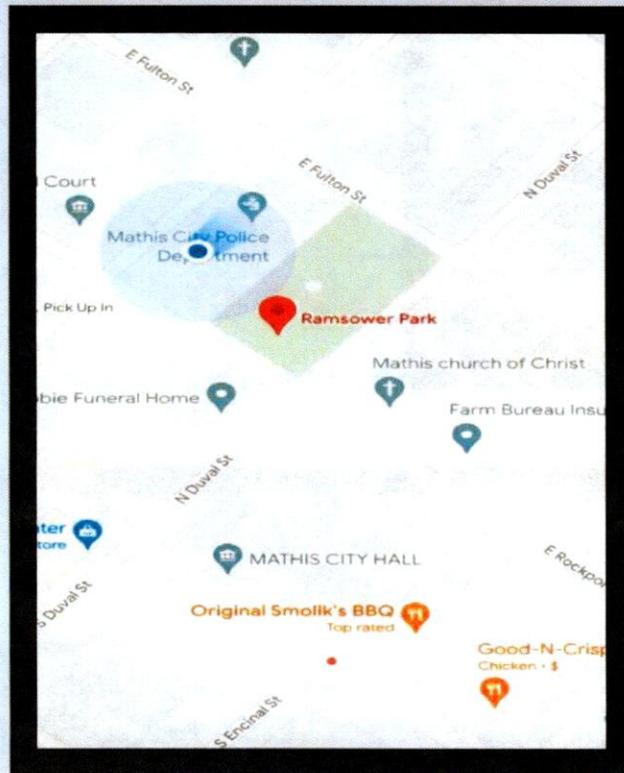
## LANCE CORPAL LUPE MONSEBAIS MEMORIAL PARK

This neighborhood park, located at 620 South Live Oak Street, is dedicated to the memory of Lance Corporal Lupe Monsebaïs. This American Hero who called Mathis, Texas his hometown. LC Lupe Monsebaïs was KIA in Hue City, Vietnam in August 5, 1968. Lupe's name is inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel W49, Line 16 and is honored on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington DC. This park has a playground area, swing set, and see-saws. Overall condition of the park and playground area are above average condition.

Necessary improvements identified: Remove or renovate the existing picnic tables and till and add new sand.

Needs: Upgrading the existing playground set and adding new plastic border, replacing or renovating the current picnic table. This park has no defined parking area, needs some lighting improvements, and needs at least two covered benches.



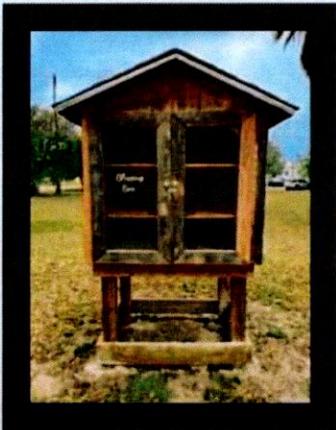
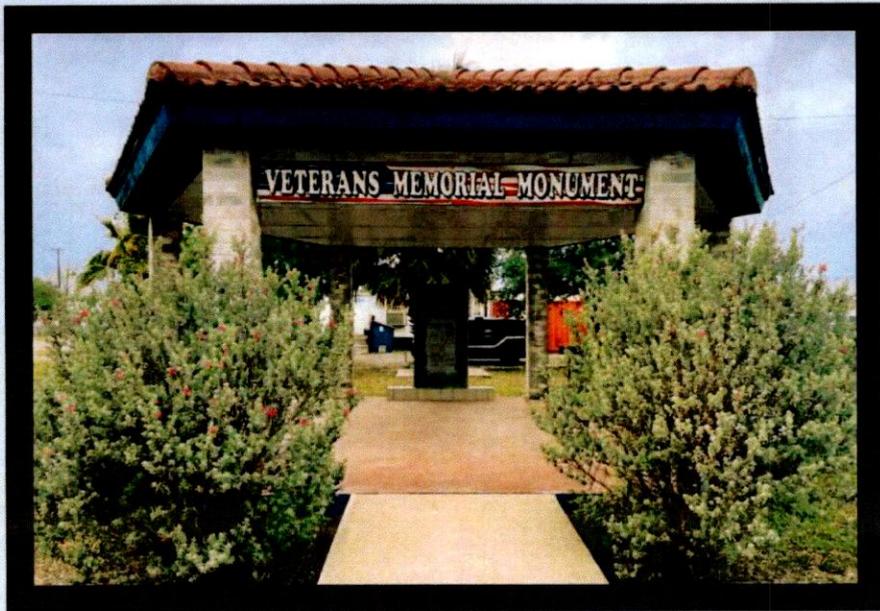


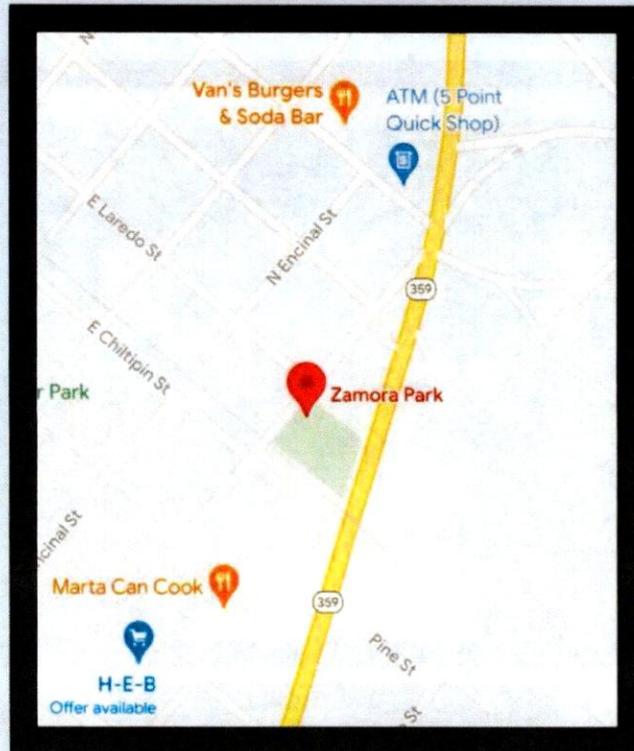
## RAMSOWER VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

This community park, located at 215 North Duval Street, is dedicated to the memory of Lt. Colonel Irving Burns Ramsower II. This American Hero, was born in Mathis, Texas. Irving is buried at the Arlington National Cemetery and has his name inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel W2, Line 124. Memorial and Veterans Day are often celebrated at this park. This park has a swing set, picnic tables as well as a monument for the recognition of Veterans. The overall condition of this park is in good condition.

Necessary improvements identified: replacing the Veterans Memorial Monument sign due to wear and tear, adding covered benches, and existing tables need to be removed or replaced.

Needs: This park, adjacent to current public safety complex, would be ideal for a future expansion to host events downtown and adding at least two covered picnic table and two covered benches would be beneficial.



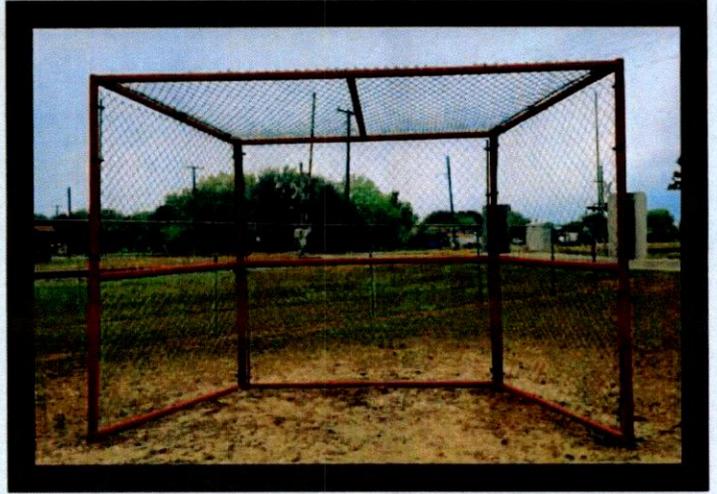
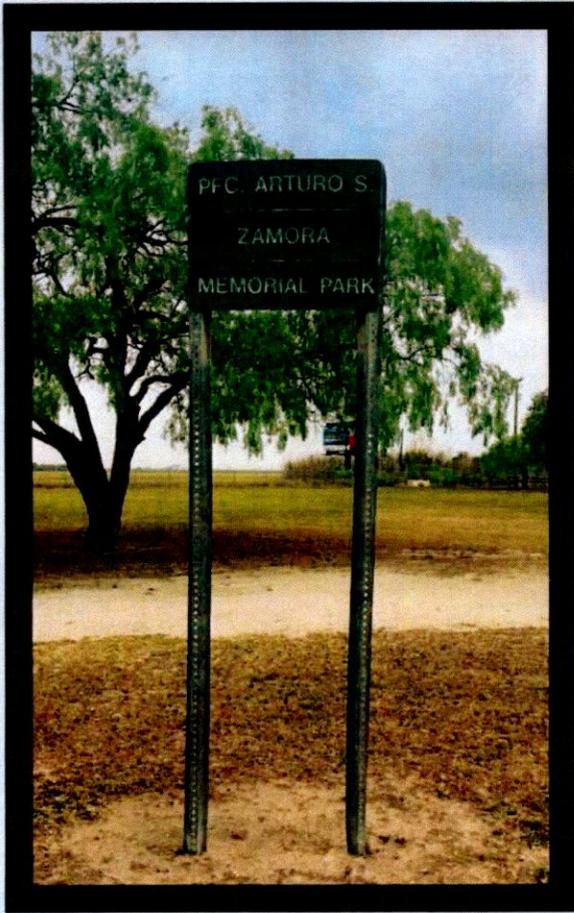


## PFC ARTURO S. ZAMORA MEMORIAL PARK

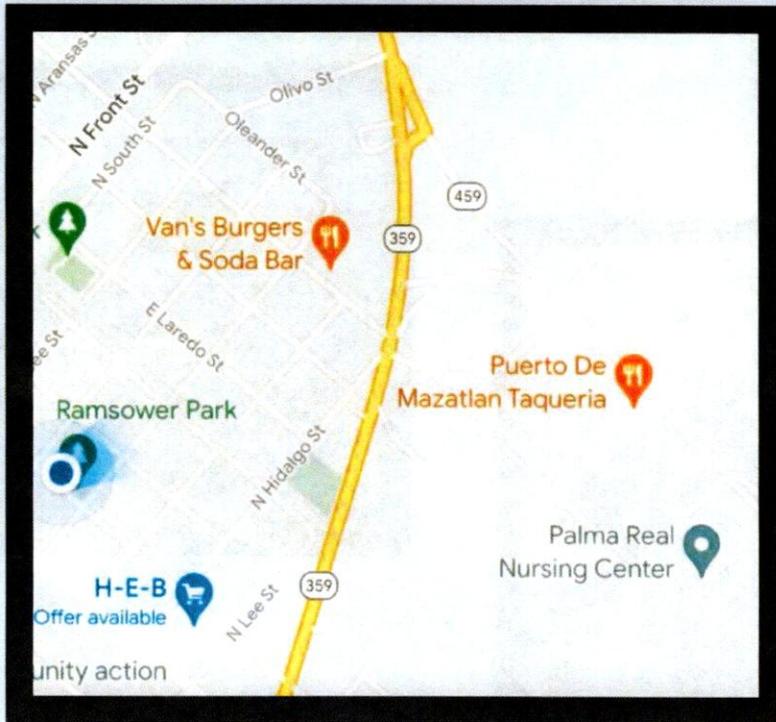
This neighborhood park, located at 400 North Hidalgo Street, is dedicated to the memory of PFC Arturo S. Zamora. This American Hero was born in Mathis, Texas. Arturo was buried at the Eternal Rest Cemetery Sinton, Texas. Arturo's name is inscribed at VVM Wall, Panel 48W, Line 51. This park has a swing set, set of see-saws, and has a back stop to hold baseball and softball practices. Overall condition of the park and existing play area is in good condition.

Necessary improvements identified: Moving the existing swing set and see-saws towards the back of the park to ensure the safety of the children.

Needs: The play area isn't utilized to its potential and no structure damages are present. Redesigning the entire park is the best suggestion. In addition, this park has no picnic tables or benches. Adding two covered picnic tables, areas, benches to each side of the back stop, defined parking area, and adding a BBQ grill and some lighting for evening enjoyment is highly recommended.



## Data collection and map preparation



### 8 ACRE OPEN SPACE

This open space, located at 743 Mary Street its near Loop 459 and Highway 359 in Mathis, Texas. This location is the home of Xavier's Landing Pad that was funded by Frank and Diana Velasco along with members of the communities . Xavier's Landing was built in 2022 in memory of their son Xavier Velasco. This location has historically hosted city events and carnivals.

Necessary improvements identified: Road improvements to Mary Street, drainage improvements, and area lighting for events.





## PARKS, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN 2023

### City Council Members

Ciri Villarreal, Mayor

Sandra Daniel Quinones, Mayor Pro Tem Place 1

Richard Salinas, Councilman, Place 2

Isabel Monsibaiz Rivera, Councilwoman Place 3

Mary Martinez Olivarez, Councilwoman Place 4

David Garcia, Councilman Place 5

In conjunction with the City of Mathis Park & Recreation, this document was prepared by the following:

EMS Administrative Assistant Nora Coronado

EMS Lt. Ryan Taylor

EMS Christina Dominguez

City of Mathis Parks Jose Del Bosque

EMS Chief/ Parks Director Paul Pulley

