

“Inspiring Exemplary Cultural Landscapes”

OTHER ATHLETIC FACILITIES

Basketball Courts (Outdoor)



Supply and Standard

- Current Number of Courts: 14 courts (city: 3; schools: 11)
- **NRPA Standard: 1 court per 5,000 population**
- **1998 Target Standard: 1 court per 8,000 population**
- **Target Standard: 1 basketball court per 3,000 population**

The 2007 standard is higher than both the NRPA and Keller 1998 standards and results in an **adequate supply of courts for 2012.**

Attitude Survey Results

- For additional facilities respondents would like to see in Keller, additional basketball courts garnered a slight majority support.
- When asked which one facility was most important to construct, basketball courts ranked in the group of facilities with less than 3% support.

Key Issues/Needs

- The Keller Youth Association’s (KYA) player participation (only Keller participants) in 2006 numbered 619 youths, or 73% of the total 850 participants.
- Their need is for indoor gym facilities, such as at KISD schools at reasonable cost.

Year 2007 – 2012 Minimum Level of Service for basketball goals

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 14 outdoor basketball courts. **This target has already been met.** The Parks Master Plan does not account for indoor facilities. Cities often provide half* (*one goal) or full courts at neighborhood parks due to their convenient access for either one person practice or neighborhood “pick up” games.

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Sand Volleyball (Outdoor)



Supply and Standard

- Current Number of Sand Volleyball Courts: 7 courts (city: 7; schools: 0)
- **NRPA Standard: 1 court per 5,000 population**
- **1998 Target Standard: 1 court per 8,000 population**
- **Target Standard: 1 court per 5,500 population**
The 2007 standard is less than the NRPA standard and higher than the Keller 1998 standard and results in an **adequate supply of courts in 2012.**

Attitude Survey Results

- When asked what single facility was most important to construct of the 32 facility choices, Sand (Outdoor) Volleyball was not selected.

Key Issues/Needs

- Multiple courts clustered together in one location is preferred to dispersed, single courts.

Year 2007 – 2012 Minimum Level of Service for outdoor volleyball courts

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 7 outdoor volleyball courts. **This target has already been met.** Cities often provide volleyball courts at neighborhood parks due to their convenient access and localized demand. However, volleyball players often prefer a number of courts together to encourage multiple games of which Bear Creek Park is a good example.

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In-Line Hockey Rink



Supply and Standard

- Current Number of In-line Hockey Rinks: 1 rink. (city:1; schools: 0)
- **NRPA Standard: 1 rink per 20,000 population**
- **1998 Target Standard: 1 rink per 30,000 population**
- **Target Standard: 1 rink per 30,000 population**

The 2007 standard is less than the NRPA standard but equal to the Keller 1998 standard and results in an **adequate supply of rinks for 2012.**

Attitude Survey Results

- For additional facilities respondents would like to see in Keller, additional in-line hockey rinks garnered minority support.
- When asked *which one facility was most important to construct*, in-line hockey rinks ranked in the group with less than 3% support out of the list of 32 facilities.

Key Issues/Needs

- The current Keller Sports Park Master Plan includes two future In-Line Hockey Rinks.

Year 2007 – 2012 Minimum Level of Service for an in-line hockey rink

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 1 In-line Hockey Rink. **This target has already been met.** Keller has one In-Line Hockey Rink at Bear Creek Park which is proposed to be replaced by two new rinks included in the Keller Sports Park Master Plan. The development of both rinks at Keller Sports Park will more than meet the needs for 2012.

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**Swimming Pools
(Leisure)**



Supply and Standard

- Current Number of Leisure Swimming Pools: 2 pools* (city: 2; schools:0)
(*1 indoor, 1 outdoor)
- **NRPA Standard: 1 leisure pool per 20,000 population**
- **1998 Target Standard: 1 leisure pool per 30,000 population**
- **Target Standard: 1 leisure pool per 20,000 population**
The 2007 standard is less than both the NRPA and Keller 1998 standards and results in a **surplus of 1 pool for 2012.**

Attitude Survey Results

- N/A*
(*For the Attitude Survey, leisure swimming pool was not presented as a facility choice on the list of 32.)

Key Issues/Needs

- Keller has two leisure swimming pools: 1 indoor pool and 1 outdoor pool at The Keller Pointe.

Year 2007 – 2012 Minimum Level of Service for a leisure swimming pool

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 2 Leisure Swimming Pools. **This target has already been met.** The current number of leisure pools meets the target, so no additional leisure pools are needed for 2012.

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**Swimming Pools
(Fitness)**



**Supply and Standard
Competitive Facilities**

- Current Number of Fitness Swimming Pools: 2 pools (city: 1*; schools: 1)
(*city has a shared-use, indoor leisure pool which has 3 lap lanes)
- **NRPA Standard: 1 fitness pool per 20,000 population**
- **1998 Target Standard: 1 fitness pool per 30,000 population**
- **Target Standard: 1 fitness pool per 20,000 population**
The 2007 target standard is less than both the NRPA and Keller 1998 standards and results in **an adequate supply of pools for 2012**. When both the leisure and fitness pool facilities are accounted for as one facility, together, they achieve a 1: 20,000 population standard, which equals the NRPA target standard.

Attitude Survey Results

- N/A*
(*For the Attitude Survey, fitness swimming pool was not presented as a facility choice on the list of 32.)

Key Issues/Needs

- The Keller Pointe has a shared use pool, which consists of part leisure use and part (3 lane) fitness/ lap pool.
- There is one KISD fitness pool, namely, the Keller ISD Natatorium.

Year 2007 – 2012 Minimum Level of Service for a fitness pool

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 2 Fitness Swimming Pools. **This target has already been met.** The current number of fitness pools meets the target, so no additional fitness pools are needed for 2012.

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Tennis



Supply and Standard

- Current Number of Tennis Courts: 14 courts (city: 0; schools:14)
- **NRPA Standard: 1 court per 2,000 population**
- **1998 Target Standard: 1 court per 2,500 population**
- **Target Standard: 1 court per 2,500 population**

The 2007 standard is set at the Keller 1998 standard, which is slightly less than the NRPA standard, and results in a **deficit of 2 courts for 2012**.

Attitude Survey Results

- For additional facilities respondents would like to see in Keller, additional tennis courts garner a slight majority support.
- When asked *which one facility was most important to construct*, tennis courts ranked third highest with 8% support out of the list of 32 facilities.

Key Issues/Needs

- The Keller Alliance Tennis Charter’s (KATCH) highest player participation (only Keller participants) during 2006 numbered 474.
- Projected growth is 8 – 9% of resident population per year.
- No city facilities exist, and KISD facilities have limited availability due to student schedules, and do not have restroom or concessions that are standard support facilities.
- The Keller Sports Park Master Plan provides for two future tennis courts.
- Communities benefit by tennis complexes, typically consisting of 16 courts with a pro shop such as found in Southlake, North Richland Hills and Hurst. Outdoor tennis complexes range from a minimum of 6 - 8 courts to a maximum of 16 - 20 courts.
- Construction of a large tennis facility may require a regional needs analysis with KATCH so as to ensure that the area’s supply does not result in a loss of investment return in such a facility.

Year 2007 – 2012 Minimum Level of Service for tennis courts

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 16 lighted tennis courts. In order to meet this target, it is recommended that **an additional 2 tennis courts** be provided in the next 5 years, which will be met by the development of the courts planned in the Keller Sports Park Master Plan. However, consideration should be given to a future 6 – 8 court (expandable to 16 – 20 court) tennis facility with restrooms and ideally shared support.

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Tracks



Supply and Standard

- Current Number of Tracks: 3 tracks. (city: 0*; schools: 3)
(*city has one elevated 3 lane indoor track at The Keller Pointe of 158 yards, or less than 1/10 mile)
- **NRPA Standard: 1 track per 10,000 population**
- **1998 Target Standard: 1 track per 30,000 population**
- **Target Standard: 1 track per 20,000 population**
The 2007 standard is set between the NRPA and the Keller 1998 standards and results in an **adequate supply of tracks in 2012.**

Attitude Survey Results

- For additional facilities respondents would like to see in Keller, additional tracks garnered a minority support.
- When asked *which one facility was most important to construct*, tracks were not selected from the list of 32 facility choices.

Key Issues/Needs

- None.

Year 2007 – 2012 Minimum Level of Service for Tracks

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 2 Tracks. **This target has already been met.** The current number of tracks meets the target, so no additional tracks are needed for 2012.

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**6.17
Non-Athletic Facilities Evaluation**

Other recreation facilities include facilities for non-athletic, non-competitive and passive activities. A review of each type of facility follows.

Paved Hike and Bike Trails



Supply and Standard

- Current Number of paved Hike and Bike Trails: 10* miles (city:10; schools: 0)
(*For planning purposes, trails must be greater than ½ mile in length in order to count toward the total.)
- **NRPA Standard: 1 hike and bike trail mile per 10,000 population**
- **1998 Target Standard: 1 hike and bike trail mile per 10,000 population**
- **Target Standard: 1 hike and bike trail mile per 1,000 population**
The 2007 standard results in a **deficit of 31 miles for 2012.**

Attitude Survey Results

- For additional facilities respondents would like to see in Keller, additional hike and bike trails garnered strong majority support.
- When asked which one facility was most important to construct, hike and bike trails ranked highest overall with 16% support out of the 32 facility choices.

Key Issues/Needs

- There is currently a nation wide increase in the popularity of trails that can be enjoyed by all age groups. Accessibility, security and visual interest along the way are a few of the important considerations when developing trails.

Year 2007 - 2012 Minimum Level of Service for paved hike and bike trails

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 41 miles of trails. In order to meet this target, it is recommended that **31 hike and bike trail miles be provided in the next 5 year period.** The ideal location for trails is along creeks, utility easements and the railroad corridor.

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Equestrian Trails



Supply and Standard

- Current Number of Trails: 3.6 miles* (city: 3.6; schools: 0)
(*1 loop trail; 2 trail connectors: 1 west and 1 north.)
- **NRPA Standard: none**
- **1998 Target Standard: 1 equestrian trail mile per 10,000 population**
- **Target Standard: 1 equestrian trail mile per 5,000 population**
No NRPA standard exists, as trails tend to be very city specific. The 2007 standard is set at one tenth of the Hike and Bike/ Jogging trails standard and results in a **deficit of 4.6 miles of trails in 2012.**

Attitude Survey Results

- For additional facilities respondents would like to see in Keller, equestrian trails garnered a minority support.
- When asked which one facility was most important to provide, equestrian trails were not selected from the list of 32 facility choices.

Key Issues/Needs

- The Keller Horse Owners Association is active regionally, with competitions as a strong part of their program.
- Equestrian trails support this unique activity which is deeply rooted in the rural and cultural history of Keller.
- Trail maps posted near the arena and in brochures will facilitate safe trail navigation.

Year 2007 – 2012 Minimum Level of Service for Equestrian Trails

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is 8.2 miles of Equestrian Trails. In order to meet this target, it is recommended that **4.6 miles of trail be provided for 2012.**

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Equestrian/ Multi-use Arenas



Supply and Standard

- Current Number of Equestrian/ Multi-use Arenas: 1 (city: 1; schools: 0)
- **NRPA Standard: none**
- **1998 Target Standard: 1 equestrian/ multi-use arena per 20,000 population**
- **Target Standard: 1 equestrian/ multi-use arena per 30,000 population**
- No NRPA standard exists, as arenas tend to be very city specific. The 2007 standard is set lower than the 1998 standard and results in **an adequate supply of arenas in 2012.**

Attitude Survey Results

- For the Attitude Survey, equestrian/ multi-use arena garnered minor support as a potential, future project in an upcoming bond election.)

Key Issues/Needs

- The Keller Horse Owners Association is active regionally, with competitions as a strong part of their program.
- Keller has an equestrian arena as part of the Keller Sports Park. The Keller Sports Park Master Plan includes an expansion of the existing facilities. Development of the facilities in the Keller Sports Park Master Plan will meet competition and horsemanship practice needs.

Year 2007 – 2012 Minimum Level of Service for Equestrian Arenas

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is one equestrian/ multi-use arena. **This target has already been met.** The current number of equestrian/multi-use arenas meets the target, so no additional equestrian/ multi-use arenas are needed for 2012. However, expansion of the existing arena per the Keller Sports Park Master Plan is recommended to meet competition and horsemanship practice needs.

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Playground Units



Supply and Standard

- Current Number of playgrounds: 22 units (city: 9; schools 13)
- **NRPA Standard: 1 playground per 1,000 population**
- **1998 Target Standard: 1 playground per 1,000 population**
- **Target Standard: 1 playground per 1,000 population**

The 2007 standard is set at the same level as the NRPA and Keller 1998 standards and results in a **deficit of 19 playground units for 2012.**

Attitude Survey Results

- For additional facilities respondents would like to see in Keller, additional playgrounds garnered strong majority support.
- When asked *which one facility was most important to construct*, playgrounds ranked second highest with 14% support out of the 32 facilities.

Key Issues/Needs

- The demand for children’s playgrounds is generally high in all communities. Keller is no exception where it rates as the second most preferred activity in parks. Playgrounds typically are a basic facility provided at all neighborhood parks.

Year 2007 - 2012 Minimum Level of Service for playgrounds

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 41 playgrounds. In order to meet this target, it is recommended that **19 additional playgrounds be provided in the next 5 year period.** The best location for playgrounds is in Neighborhood Parks. However, playgrounds should also be considered in future Community Parks.

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Recreation Center/ Aquatic Facility



Supply and Standard

- Current Number of Recreation/Aquatic Centers: 1 center (city: 1; schools 0)
- **NRPA Standard: none**
- **1998 Target Standard: 1 recreation center/aquatic facility per 40,000 population**
- **Target Standard: 1 recreation center/ aquatic facility per 40,000 population**

The 2007 standard results in an **adequate supply for 2012.**

Attitude Survey Results

- N/A*
(*For the Attitude Survey, recreation/aquatic center was not presented as a facility choice on the list of 32.)

Key Issues/Needs

- The Keller Pointe is a modern recreation/aquatic center, which is quite successful.

Year 2007 - 2012 Minimum Level of Service for a Recreation/Aquatic Center

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is 1 Recreation Center/ Aquatic Facility. **This target has already been met.** Since the current number of recreation/aquatic centers meets the target, no additional recreation/aquatic centers are needed for 2012.

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Skateboard Park



Supply and Standard

- Current Number of Skateboard Parks: 0 parks (city: 0; schools 0)
- **NRPA Standard: none**
- **1998 Target Standard: 1 skate park 30,000 population**
- **Target Standard: 1 skate park per 30,000 population**
The 2007 standard results in a **deficit of 1 park for 2012.**

Attitude Survey Results

- For additional facilities respondents would like to see in Keller, skate parks did not garner majority support.
- When asked *which one facility was most important to construct*, skate parks ranked in the lower part of the top 10 facilities with 5% support, (in a tie with Lighted Practice Soccer Fields) out of 32 facilities.

Key Issues/Needs

- Skate Parks have gained popularity with many communities in recent years. Some of these skate parks are successful especially when located in a high use, pedestrian area where public surveillance is part of the safety, as well as of the enjoyment. However, the requirement for it to be successful is a location that is well visited.

Year 2007 - 2012 Minimum Level of Service for a skate park

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for next 5 years is recommended to be 1 Skate Park. In order to meet this target, it is recommended that **1 skate park be provided for 2012.**

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Water Spray Park



Supply and Standard

- Current Number of Water Spray Parks: 0 parks (city: 0; schools 0)
- **NRPA Standard: none**
- **1998 Target Standard: 1 water spray park per 30,000 population**
- **Target Standard: 1 water spray park per 30,000 population**
The 2007 standard results in a **deficit of 1 park for 2012.**

Attitude Survey Results

- For additional facilities respondents would like to see in Keller, water spray parks did not garner majority support.
- When asked *which one facility was most important to construct*, water spray parks ranked with less than 3% support out of the list of 32 facilities choices.

Key Issues/Needs

- Water Spray Parks offer a unique form of outdoor water play particularly for children.
- Water Spray Parks have gained a substantial level of interest with many communities in recent years.
- The Keller Pointe Master Plan includes a water spray park adjacent to it.

Year 2007 - 2012 Minimum Level of Service for a Water Spray Park

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for Water Spray Park for the next 5 years is recommended to be 1 Water Spray Park. In order to meet this target, it is recommended that **1 Water Spray Park be provided for 2012.**

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Dog Park



Supply and Standard

- Current Number of Dog Parks: 0 parks (city: 0; schools 0)
- **NRPA Standard: none**
- **1998 Target Standard: 1 dog park 40,000 population**
- **Target Standard: 1 dog park per 40,000 population**
The 2007 standard results in a **deficit of 1 dog park for 2012.**

Attitude Survey Results

- For additional facilities respondents would like to see in Keller, dog parks garnered minority support.
- When asked which one facility was most important to construct, dog parks ranked fifth overall with 6% support (in a tie with Amphitheater) out of the list of 32 facility choices.

Key Issues

- Dog Parks are growing in popularity with many communities.
- Dog Parks serve a dual purpose: running opportunities and dog socializing (even owner socializing). A third purpose is more applicable in dense multi-family apartment housing where a dog park is the only opportunity for the animals to have access to an exterior landscaped environment. Depending on what is allowed or not, dog parks need to be of a certain size to absorb animal droppings not picked up by owners. If droppings are to be picked up, policing becomes an important factor. The typical issues about dog parks include the NIMBY “not in my backyard” factor, as a result of potential noise, odor and traffic, including the need for parking.

Year 2012 - 2017 Minimal Level of Service for a Dog Park

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for Dog Park for the next 5 years is recommended to be 1 Dog Park. In order to meet this target, it is recommended that **1 Dog Park be provided for 2012.**

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Fitness Courses



Supply and Standard

- Current Number of Fitness Courses: 0 (city: 0; schools 0)
 - Current Level of Service: 0
 - **NRPA Standard: none**
 - **1998 Target Standard: 1 fitness course per 8,000 population**
 - **2007 Target Standard: 1 fitness course per 15,000 population**
- The 2007 standard is set lower than the Keller 1998 standard and results in a **deficit of 2 courses for 2012.**

Attitude Survey Results

- When asked which one facility was most important to construct, exercise stations along trails ranked with 3% support of the 32 facility choices.
- Respondents gave a bare majority support (1.1 support: 1 against) for exercise stations as a desired additional facility.

Key Issues / Needs

- Fitness stations are ideally suited to *intersecting* locations of well used trails, with a park, so that park visitors as well as trail users have opportunity to make use of them.

Year 2007 – 2012 Minimum Level of Service for Fitness Courses

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 2 Fitness Courses. In order to meet this target, it is recommended that an additional **2 Fitness Courses be provided for 2012.**

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Horse shoe and Washer Pits



Supply and Standard

- Current Number of Horse shoe and Washer Pits: 2 (city: 2; schools 0)
 - Current Level of Service: 1 / 18,850
 - **NRPA Standard: none**
 - **1998 Target Standard: 1 horse shoe and washer pit per 6,000 population**
 - **2007 Target LOS: 1 horse shoe and washer pit per 10,000 population**
- The 2007 standard is set less than the Keller 1998 standard and results in a deficit of **2 horse shoe and washer pits for 2012.**

Attitude Survey Results

- N/A*
(*Horse shoe Pits were not a facility choice.)

Key Issues / Needs

- None for the near future.

Year 2007 – 2012 Minimum Level of Service for Horseshoe Pits

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 4 Horse shoe Pits. In order to meet this target, it is recommended that an additional **2 horse shoe and washer pits be provided for 2012.**

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**6.18
Support Facilities**

Large / Small Pavilions



Supply and Standard

Current Number of Large and Small Pavilions: 10 (city: 9; schools 1)

- **NRPA Standard: 1: 2,000 population**
- **1998 Target Standard: 1: 1,000 population**
- **Target Standard: 1 pavilion / picnic shelter per 1,500 population**

The 2007 standard represents an increase over the NRPA standard and a decrease over the Keller 1998 standard and results in a **deficit of 17 units for 2012.**

Attitude Survey Results

- For additional facilities respondents would like to see in Keller, large rental/reunion pavilions garnered majority support.
- When asked *which one facility was most important to construct*, large pavilions ranked in a group with 8th highest support of the list of 32 facilities.

Key Issues/Needs

- Solar protection is a recognized health and safety issue.
- Large and small pavilions provide shade, which extends the seasonal usage of park amenities, adding value to the entire park.
- The demand for pavilions, shelters and picnic areas are generally high in all communities. Keller is no exception as seen in the Attitude Survey.
- The size of covered picnic facilities is determined by park type and situation; for instance, a Large Pavilion covering 4 - 6 picnic tables is a good fit within a Community Park. Small Pavilions and Gazebos that typically cover 1 – 2 picnic tables generally fit well in a Neighborhood Park. Individual siting and other particular park issues also influence the choice of the most appropriate facility to provide.

Year 2007 – 2012 Minimum Level of Service for Large & Small Pavilions

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 27 Large and Small Pavilions. In order to meet this standard, it is required that an additional **17 Large and Small Pavilions be provided** in the next 5 year period. Both Neighborhood and Community Parks are ideal locations for pavilions.

“Inspiring Exemplary Cultural Landscapes”

Senior Center



Supply and Standard

- Current Number of Senior Centers: 1 center (city: 1; schools 0)
- **NRPA Standard: none**
- **1998 Target Standard: none**
- **Target Standard: 1 recreation center per 20,000 population**
The 2007 standard results in a **deficit of 1 center for 2012.**

Attitude Survey Results

- When asked if respondents would support potential facilities in a bond election, the expansion of the Keller Senior Center ranked first of indoor recreational facilities with 64% support overall, after the outdoor potential projects. Refer to Table 5.5.

Key Issues/Needs

- The Keller Senior Center is a heavily used and significantly undersized facility.
- The current center needs to be replaced with a modern facility in order to successfully meet the needs of Keller residents for today and even more with an eye to the future build-out population.
- A study should be conducted to determine the optimal solution to meet build-out need: expansion of existing, adaptive re-use of another facility, or new construction.
- Many Keller residents desire to stay in Keller for retirement and the duration of their lives.
- Trends show grandparents move to communities to be close to their grandchildren.

Year 2007 - 2012 Minimum Level of Service for a Modern Senior Center

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is 2 Senior Centers. In order to meet this target, it is recommended that **one large or two small centers be provided in the next five years.** The best location is central, if one is to be provided, or equidistant if two are preferred. It is further recommended that a study be conducted to determine the optimal solution.

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Amphitheaters



Supply and Standard

Current Number of Amphitheaters:1 (city: 1; schools 0)

- **NRPA Standard: none**
- **1998 Target Standard: none**
- **Target Standard: 1 amphitheater per 30,000 population**
The 2007 standard is new and results in **an adequate supply for 2012.**

Attitude Survey Results

- For additional facilities respondents would like to see in Keller, amphitheaters garnered 54% majority support.
- When asked which one facility was most important to construct, amphitheaters ranked fifth overall with 6% support (in a tie with Dog Park) of the list of 32 facility choices.

Key Issues/Needs

- In The Parks at Town Center Master Plan, an amphitheater is part of the planned facility development.
- Should an alternate location be desired or preferred, the curving steps opposite the Town Hall would serve as a generous amphitheater, with a floating stage on the lake.

Year 2007 – 2012 Minimum Level of Service for Amphitheaters

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 1 Amphitheater. **This target has already been met.** The current number of amphitheaters meets the target, so no additional amphitheaters are needed for 2012.

The Parks at Town Center Master Plan has identified one location for an amphitheater, though an alternative location may be the curving steps opposite the Town Hall, which would serve as a generous amphitheater, with the addition of a floating stage on the lake.

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Environmental Learning Centers



Supply and Standard

Current Number of Environmental Learning Centers:0 (city: 0; schools 0)

- **NRPA Standard: none**
- **1998 Target Standard: none**
- **Target Standard: 1 Environmental Learning Center per 30,000 population**

The 2007 standard is new and results in a **deficit of 1 Environmental Learning Center for 2012.**

Attitude Survey Results

- Environmental Learning Center was not one of the 32 facility choices.
- Keller residents give very high support preserving a rural character with ample open space and nature areas; it may be extrapolated that a learning center dedicated to understanding and appreciating the unique environment of Keller will be strongly supported as well.
- When asked if respondents would support an environmental learning Center as a potential, future project in an upcoming bond election, the results show strong support for this project.

Key Issues/Needs

- Keller citizens would benefit by an environmental learning center that promotes an awareness and appreciation of the natural resources in Keller.
- Keller has two creeks, Big Bear Creek and Little Bear Creek. There may be a location along one of these, with a trail connection, that will serve this purpose.

Year 2007 – 2012 Minimum Level of Service for Environmental Learning Centers

Based on the above assessment, the Minimum Level of Service for the next 5 years is recommended to be 1 Environmental Learning Center. **In order to meet this target, it is recommended that 1 Environmental Learning Center be provided for 2012.** A creek side location with trail access would provide an opportune site for such a facility.

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Table 6.10
Summary of Current and Minimum Levels of Service (MLOS) and Required Additions per Recreation Facility for the next 5 years

Recreation Facility	Current Level of Service/ Population	Long Term Target Standard	2007-12 MLOS/# Facilities	2007-12 Required Addition
Major Athletic				
Baseball Fields (Competitive)	1/4167	1 / 4,500	9	0
Baseball/Softball (Backstops)	1 / 2,344	1/2,000	20	8
Softball Fields (Competitive)	1 / 7,500	1/5,000	8	3
Soccer Fields (Youth)	1/7,500	1/7,000	6	1
Football Fields	1/7,500	1 /25,000	1	0
Multi-use Play Areas (Soccer and Football)	1/2,500	1/2,500	16	1
Other Athletic				
Basketball Courts (Outdoor)	1/2,693	1/3,000	14	0
Sand Volleyball Courts (Outdoor)	1 / 5,357	1/5,500	7	0
In-Line Hockey Rinks	1 / 37,500	1/30,000	1	0
Swimming Pools (Leisure)	1/18,750	1/40,000	1	0
Swimming Pools (Fitness)	1/18,750	1/40,000	1	0
Tennis Courts	1 /2,679	1/2,500	16	2 (+4 minimum)*
Tracks	1/12,500	1/20,000	2	0
Non-athletic/Non-competitive				
Hike and Bike Trails (Paved)	1 mile/ 3,750	1 mile/ 1,000	41 miles	31 miles
Equestrian Trails	1 mile/ 10,416	1 mile/ 5,000	8.2 miles	4.6 miles
Equestrian Arena	1 / 37,500	1/30,000	1	0
Playground Units	1 /2,206	1/1,000	41	19
Recreation/Aquatic Centers	1 / 37,500	1/40,000	1	0
Skate Parks	0	1/30,000	1	1
Water Spray Parks	0	1/30,000	1	1
Dog Parks	0	1/40,000	1	1
Fitness Courses	0	1/15,000	0	2
Horse Shoe Pits	1/18,750	1/10,000	4	2
Support Facilities				
Modern Senior Center	1/37,770	1/40,000	2	1
Large and Small Pavilions	1/4,167	1/1,500	27	17
Amphitheater	0	1/30,000	1	1
Environmental Learning Center	0	1/30,000	1	1

* Minimum six courts are required for team competition.

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Table 6.11
Recreational Facilities to Construct within the Next 5 Years
Based on Standard Assessment

Recreation Facility	Suggested Implementation over the next 5 year period	Total Number of Facilities
Major Athletic		
Softball Fields (Competitive)	3 fields	3
Baseball/ Softball backstops	2 units per year	8
Practice Facilities		
Soccer Fields (Youth)	1 field	1
Multi-use play areas	1 play area	1
Other Athletic Facilities		
Tennis Courts	2 courts (+4 min.)*	6
Non-athletic/Non-competitive		
Hike And Bike Trails	6.5 miles per year	31 miles
Equestrian Trails	1 mile per year	4.6 miles
Playground units	4 units per year	19
Skate Parks	1 park	1
Water Spray Parks	1 park	1
Dog Parks	1 park	1
Fitness Courses	2 courses	2
Horse Shoe and Washer Pits	2 pits	2
Support Facilities		
Modern Senior Center	1 Center	1
Large and Small Pavilions	3.5 units per year	17
Amphitheater	1 unit	1
Environmental Learning Center	1 Center	1

* Minimum six courts are required for team competition.

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6c. Resource Based Needs and Opportunities

6.19

Natural and Manmade Resources

The 1998 Parks and Open Space Update states that “82% (of survey respondents) felt it was **important to preserve natural creek corridors and open space as Keller develops.**” While cautioning that such areas “are rapidly decreasing in size and quantity”, the 1998 Parks and Open Space Update makes a positive assessment that “Keller is fortunate to have many attractive areas of undeveloped land.”

In the 2006 Attitude Survey, 94% of respondents agreed that “**Natural areas are important and should be preserved where it is available**”. This was a response to question 13 in the Attitude Survey. However, the availability of nature areas has decreased rapidly since 1998.



The presence of farm animals within an urban setting provides residents with a sense of connection to the earth. Scenes like this should be celebrated and protected for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

The protection, recreational use and enjoyment of a city’s natural and manmade resources are an important component of any Parks Master Plan, and in recognition of Keller’s citizen’s devotion to natural areas and open space

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preserves combined with the available vacant land a dwindling resource, open space preserves and natural areas is a portion of the park system which deserves special attention.

The City of Keller has a number of landscape features and resources that should be preserved and/or adapted for recreational use and open space preservation where feasible. These are the natural vegetation, creeks and streams, rural landscapes, utility (electrical, water, gas, etc.) and railroad rights-of-way, water towers as well as cultural landmarks and views.

**6.19.1
Natural Vegetation**

The Cross Timbers and Prairies extends from Oklahoma and southern Kansas southward to the Edwards Plateau and southwesterly to the Llano Basin. It is the primary ecological region of northcentral Texas, encompassing approximately 26,000 square miles in all.

Surface rocks in this ecosystem were laid down in the Cretaceous Period, or 145 -65 million years ago. Subsoil clay and sand intermingle, a mixture that retains water and supports vegetation. Interestingly, soils throughout the region are not uniform. As a result, plant communities display striking variances, even over relatively short distances. The ecological subsection known as the western cross timbers is characterized by a mixture of Post oak, Blackjack and Tallgrass prairie.

Early travelers’ accounts describe a landscape in which post oak and blackjack are intermingled and spaced, as stated in 1866 by Marcy, so that “wagons can without difficulty pass between them in any direction.” Another description by W. B. Parker in 1854, tells that “the timber is a short, stunted oak, not growing in a continuous forest, but interspersed with open glades, plateaus, and vistas of prairie scenery, which give a very picturesque and pleasing variety.” J. Pope reported in May, 1854 that “by far the richest and most beautiful district of country I have ever seen, in Texas or elsewhere, is that watered by the Trinity and its tributaries. Occupying east and west a belt of one hundred miles in width, with about equal quantities of prairie and timber, intersected by numerous clear, fresh streams and countless springs, with a gently undulating surface of prairie and oak openings, it presents the most charming views, as of a country in the highest state of cultivation, and you are startled at the summit of each swell of the prairie with a prospect of groves, parks and forests, with intervening plains of luxuriant grass, over which the eye in vain wanders in search of the white village or the stately house, which seem alone wanting to be seen.” Other travellers noted the thick undergrowth of briars and other thorny bushes.

Texas’ tallgrass prairie was once a vast land covering an estimated 20 million acres, extending from San Antonio to the Red River. Over time and with increased urbanization, these fertile lands have been transformed to use as

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farmland or range, as well as urban sprawl. Now, protected prairie land accounts for a mere 10,000 acres in Texas today.



*The trail snakes gracefully between the natural occurring post oaks in Willis Cover Park. Shade loving inland sea oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) will increase the visual as well as ecological functioning of this landscape.*

Because the natural vegetation is unique, there is a need for it to be protected and preserved, for the public to have access to it to instill awareness and appreciation of it. There is a need for it to be managed, and a need to educate the public about the scarcity of such resources generally, and the privilege of viewing it and preserving it for future generations to enjoy.

Sources:

- <http://www.texasep.org/cpft/tgprie.html>
- http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/landwater/land/habitats/cross_timbers/ecoregions/cross_timbers.phtml
- <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/books/landscapes/publications/txu-oclc-1032906/txu-oclc-1032906-b-031.html>

**6.19.2
Creeks and Streams**

The creeks and streams fulfill an extremely important role in cities. Given proper protection and management, they have a tremendous economic, ecological and recreational value for the community. One of the best ways to ensure the protection of creeks and streams is through the establishment of creek corridors. The value of creeks and streams in the urban and semi-urban environments, the

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establishment of creek corridors, the importance of watershed management and integrated storm water management are presented in **Appendix E: Creeks and Streams.**



Water has a natural attraction; In Keller Sports Park, fishing is a favorite past time.

The City of Keller has the following creek systems: Big Bear Creek and Little Bear Creek, which has an important regional connection. These creeks form important linkages that serve as trail connections. The nature of creek and drainage systems is that they are linear and thus ideal corridors for activities like hiking, jogging and biking.



Although this is an attempt to provide visual and physical access to a drainage way, it is unfortunate that the original meanders and creek side vegetation crucial to the viability of the ecosystem were removed.

Developing trails along creeks and drainage corridors will assist in answering the need for linear parks in the City. This will also provide the opportunity for the

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development of hike and bike trails which rated as one of the most important recreational facilities needed in Keller. In addition, the protection of creek corridors ensures protection against flood damage. An important consideration is that respondents indicated strong and enthusiastic support for trails as part of capital improvement in Keller.



Pedestrian creek crossings provide the opportunity for visitors to observe and learn from the creek environment.

**6.19.3
Rural Landscapes**

The public participation process including the telephonic conducted Attitude Survey and the public meeting revealed that the residents of Keller place strong emphasis on the importance of maintaining the rural character of the City and providing access to natural areas and open space.

A rural character for Keller typically means a natural landscape representing the Crosstimbers and Prairie and an agricultural landscape including cultivated lands, ranch land with cattle and/or horses and farm buildings and/or structures.



Cattle grazing along the side of the road creates a sense of calm and tranquility. Conservation Development is a tool to ensure the incorporation of working farms within a residential community.

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This image is telling of the rural landscape found in Keller today.

Treetops, open fields seen from afar and other vantages literally and figuratively expand one’s horizons in viewing the context of the rural environment. Topographic elevation changes and long views afford special opportunities for residents to view their city and appreciate the natural landscape, and the way different neighborhoods relate to each other. Tree covered hill ridges outlining the sky and other such opportunities need to be preserved for the public and celebrated.



The rural landscape of Keller is often expansive and gently rolling, with singular trees providing shade and a sense of form which is also typical of Texas’ rolling plains.

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**6.19.4
Utility Rights-of-Way**

An important characteristic of utility rights-of-way is that they cross various boundaries including roads, creeks and property boundaries. This together with the linear nature of utility rights-of-way for gas, electricity and water, make them ideal as hike and bike trails. The City has two easements of note: the one runs north – south along the western edge of the City, where it crosses Keller Sports Park. The other runs northwest to southeast in the southwest corner of Keller in Area I. The future Shady Grove Linear Park recognizes the opportunities inherent in this easement.

**6.19.5
Rail way Rights-of-Way**

Two characteristics of a rail right-of-way make it ideal as a hike and bike trail: its linear nature and gentle topography change. The City of Keller is blessed with a railroad that edges and runs along the entire length of the City from north to south.



The railroad runs parallel to Main Street in along the edge of Old Town Keller. Ideal as a trail corridor, it is recommended that an easement of about 50 feet wide parallel to the railroad be acquired for this purpose.

Occasionally, access to these rights-of-way is complicated. Additionally, in the case of the rail way along Keller’s western boundary, the train line is very active, with trains running about once an hour. Its use as a freight line places limitations on the use of the right-of-way.

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The use of the right-of-way for trails has been negotiated successfully with rail authorities at other places in the State of Texas – specifically in and around the City of Dallas. Although there may be limited opportunities for connections, it is recommended for the long term to seek to acquire an additional easement to facilitate trail connections which are very desirable along this alignment. Since there is majority support for trails, with careful planning and design, it is possible that in the future there may be the political will to support a trail and linear park. The impressive Burlington Northern locomotive is an important existing feature and landmark along the recommended rail associated trail in Keller.

**6.19.6
Road Rights-of-Way**

Roads rights-of-Way provide important opportunities for trail linkages. Roads by definition connect various destination points within a city. However, due to potential conflict with pedestrians, joggers and cyclists, roadways are not the ideal feature to use for a trail, unless adequate easement is acquired to allow for a dedicated trail connection. In certain situations bicycle routes may be provided within the road itself, in which case it is important to provide adequate space and trail markings on the road surface.



From an image of a family taking an afternoon stroll along Bancroft Road, it is clear that there is dire need for trails along road ways. Such a pleasant activity should not be marred by the lack of a safe and accessible trail or being exposed to the dangers along a road when attempting to spend quality family time while exercising.

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There is huge and untapped potential in acquiring easements along roads in Keller for the establishment of hike and bike trails.



Another example of a real need for a trail along a road, in this case Shady Lane North.



These two bicyclists were found training on the shoulder of FM377 which is a very busy two lane, two-way road. This is demonstrative of the need for biking trails within an extended road right-of-way or in places much safer than along major roadways.

6.20

Distribution of Natural and Cultural Resources in Keller

The natural resources of Keller are an important tool in the overall recreational needs assessment for the parks system. Identifying and preserving the elements that make the City unique and which add character lay the foundation for building the network of linkages that ultimately shapes the vision. The natural resources which are described below, form much of the basis for envisioning the ideal for the city: ***“Inspiring Exemplary Cultural Landscapes”***.

As a way of understanding their distribution, it is useful to understand what natural resources are unique to each city sector of Keller.