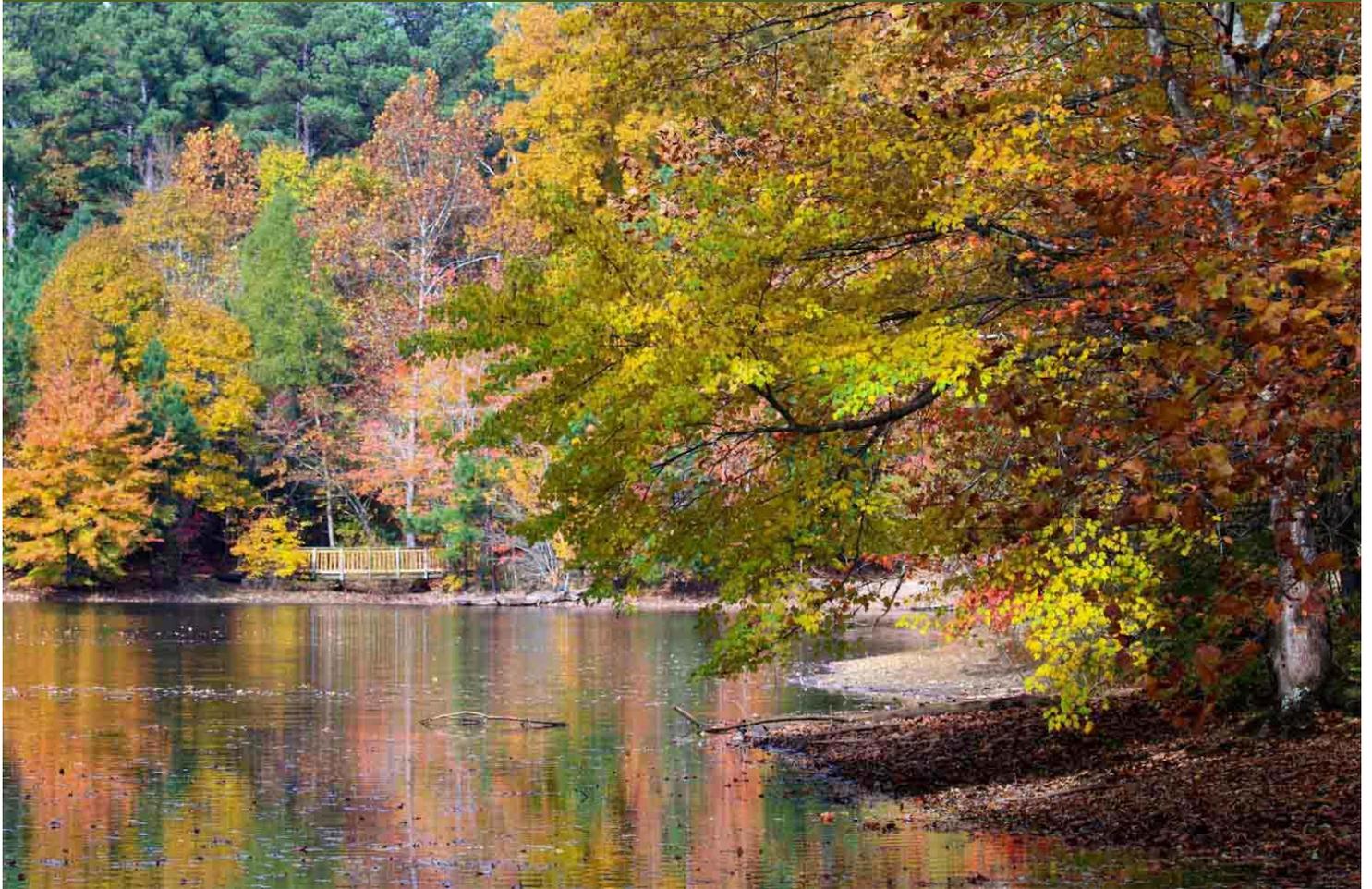


# Bowie Nature Park Master Plan



City of Fairview, Tennessee  
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## 1 SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

Bowie Nature Park is an important natural and recreational resource for the City of Fairview. Its almost entirely pristine terrain, spread over 680 acres, accommodates a range of uses and needs, spanning from conservation of wildlife habitat to recreational activities such as mountain bike and horseback riding. Intended to be flexible and dynamic, this master plan can and should be adapted to Fairview's changing needs in the coming years. As with any master plan of this type, it is meant to guide management and maintenance activities in the park, as well as provide a framework and context for future decisions over the next 20 years, focusing on those aspects identified herein as priorities.

### 1.1 MASTER PLAN GOALS

The goals of the Bowie Nature Park Master Plan are:

- To provide a clear direction for the future of the Park by defining a vision and guiding principles that represent the fundamental role of the Park within the City;
- To recommend and prioritize specific actions necessary to preserve and improve Park resources; and,
- To build a foundation for planning and implementing future plans in the Park, including maintenance and management of habitat, vegetation, programming, facilities, and infrastructure.

### 1.2 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

The Bowie Nature Park Master Plan refers to or integrates with a number of planning documents, including:

- Warranty Deed from Evangeline Bowie (Williamson County, Tennessee, 1988)
- Fairview Parks Department Master Plan (City of Fairview, 1997)
- Fairview 2020 Comprehensive Plan (City of Fairview, 2000)
- Conservation Easement (City of Fairview and The Land Trust of Tennessee, Inc., 2008)
- Ecology Report of the Bowie Nature Park (Civil and Environmental Consultants Inc., 2008)
- Bowie Nature Park Burn Management Plan (Fairview Parks Department, 2008)
- Bowie Nature Park Trails Maintenance Plan (Fairview Parks Department, 2008)
- Public Pond Management Recommendations (Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency, 2013)
- Forest Management Plan-Pine Thinning Plan (City of Fairview, 2013)

### 1.3 PARTNERS

In addition to the City, several other organizations and agencies act in an advisory or consulting capacity for Bowie Nature Park. They are:

- The Land Trust For Tennessee, Inc., which oversees the Conservation Easement of Bowie Nature Park. Under the terms of the easement, all permanent improvements such as forestry plans, buildings, trails, picnic areas, etc. must have prior written consent of the Land Trust;
- Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency, which has consulted and made recommendations for management of Park ponds;
- Tennessee Department of Agriculture (Division of Forestry), which has consulted and helped plan and administer the Park's prescribed burn plans and is currently consulting on a forestry plan for Bowie Nature Park;
- Tennessee Valley Authority, which has management rights of two power lines and the right of way around them in the Park;
- Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (Division of Water Supply) , which inspects and gives recommendations in regards to the dams at Lake Anna and Lake Van; and,
- Friends of Bowie Nature Park, which offers support to Park Staff via volunteer opportunities, fundraising events, Park projects, etc.

## **2 LOCATION & CONTEXT**

This chapter describes the Park in terms of its location and physical characteristics. It also discusses the context of the Park from a land-use perspective, as well as examining its history and role within the City.

### **2.1 PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

Bowie nature Park is located just off Highway 100 within the City of Fairview in the northwest corner of Williamson County, TN. The property is accessed off of Bowie Lake Road which runs east-west off of Highway 100.

Bowie Nature Park is primarily natural forest habitat consisting of pine forest, mixed deciduous upland forest and mixed deciduous riparian forests. The Park possesses scenic natural beauty and is located in the midst of an area of increasing development and subdivision of land for residential and commercial purposes.

According to the “Ecology Report of the Bowie Nature Park”, prepared by Civil and Environmental Consultants (May 2008), the topography at Bowie Nature Park is rolling to steep. Elevations range from 900’ above sea level in the eastern area of the Park, to 720’ above sea level in the park’s western-most portion, at the lower reaches of Little Turnbull Creek. Slopes are generally mildly steep and increase in the hollows.

The Park has approximately seven-tenths of a mile of frontage on Crow Cut Road and seven-tenths of a mile of frontage on Dice Lampley Road, both public rights of way. The Park is also visible from Fairview Blvd./State Highway 100 with minimal road frontage.

### **2.2 NEIGHBORING LAND INFLUENCES**

Much of the land surrounding the park has been converted to residential, commercial or municipal uses. There is one private in-holding inside the park, called Bowie Hollow, that is accessed via Bowie Hollow Road off of Crow Cut Road.

Fairview City Hall, which fronts on Highway 100, is adjacent to the Park in the northeast corner. Fairview Fire Hall is located adjacent to the entrance of the Park on Bowie Lake Road.

Within 2 miles of the Park are the following residential subdivisions: Castleberry Farms, Chester Estates, Sharpes Run, Meadow Wood, Fernvale Heights, Western Woods Village, Clearview Meadows, Kingwood, Cox Run, Valley Green, Pinecrest, and Aden Woods of Castleberry.

Also, directly adjacent to the Park, are several commercial businesses, including Bowie Commons, Tractor Supply, Walmart, and Scott Fetzer Electrical Group, as well as Fairview Public Library, which is operated by Williamson County.

### **2.3 HISTORY OF THE PARK**

Beginning around 1954, Dr. Evangeline Bowie began buying property in the Fairview area. Large areas of this land were stripped to the bare soil for farming and tree farming purposes.

Agricultural practices in the 1920's and 1930's by family owned farms did not include techniques used today to prevent erosion and soil depletion. Dr. Bowie was faced with barren land, scored by deep, long gullies that carried off 20 to 30 tons of topsoil a year during rains. Equipped with a bulldozer and pine seedlings, Dr. Bowie began a reclamation process that this plan proposes to continue well into the next century. Using different techniques of conservation, such as filling gullies, terracing, building dams and planting trees, Dr. Bowie was able to bring life back to what was previously an ecologically distressed land.

The land that is now known as Bowie Nature Park was deeded to the City of Fairview on December 22, 1988 by Dr. Bowie for use as a nature park and totaled 722 acres. Dr. Bowie's deed (1988) included several provisions to include that any portion of the property could be liquidated if it would not diminish the utilization of the land as a wildlife preserve and/or park and funds derived from the sale would have to be reinvested in to improvements back in to the remaining property.

Improvements to the property from 1988 until 2003 include: trail management, paving of an entrance road to Shelter #1 and Shelter #2, as well as construction of outdoor restrooms, picnic tables and shelters, benches, a playground, stage, bridges, and boardwalks.

In 2003, Bowie Park Nature Center was completed and opened. The center offers programming activities, nature and art exhibits, as well as the opportunity for visitors to learn more about the park itself through brochures, art, and a small museum that details the Park's unique history.

In 2008, Bowie Nature Park, part of the legacy of land provided by Dr. Bowie, was placed in a conservation easement overseen by the Land Trust For Tennessee, preserving it for future generations.

The Park when placed in the conservation easement totaled 680 acres compared to 722 acres. Land that is no longer part of the original Bowie Nature Park property but still owned by the City include land for City Hall, the property known as the Out Parcel, and the land that the new Fire Hall and Community Service building sit on. The rest of the 42 acres not part of the current Park land (nearly 6 acres) was sold by the City and is now Bowie Commons shopping area.

## **2.4 ROLE OF THE PARK WITHIN THE CITY OF FAIRVIEW**

The property is used by the City as a nature park with passive recreational and educational uses and is improved with typical nature park improvements. The "Fairview 2020 Comprehensive Plan" (2000) states:

The City of Fairview envisions Bowie Nature Park as one of the finest examples of "Nature Parks" in the state of Tennessee. By showcasing its outstanding natural beauty and unique cultural heritage, the park will offer to both present and future generations a place where people can experience the natural processes in a variety of ecosystems. By enhancing this park we can provide environmentally compatible recreation for city residents while teaching respect and care for the land and natural resources.

## **2.5 ROLE OF THE PARK WITHIN THE WATERSHED**

The Park contains over three miles of streams, all of which are located within the Harpeth River watershed and the Little Turnbull Creek sub-watershed. Little Turnbull Creek bisects the park from southeast to northwest and enters Turnbull Creek northwest of the Park. Turnbull Creek flows into the South Harpeth River approximately 8 miles north of the Park. In addition, within the park, several first-order streams drain into Little Turnbull Creek. These are Walter Creek (also known as Hickman Branch), Hidden Hollow Creek and several unnamed tributaries. (Conservation Easement, 2008)

For more information see Appendix 9 of the “Conservation Easement”.

## **3 BOWIE NATURE PARK TODAY**

This chapter examines the current conditions of Bowie Nature Park, including an overview of its prevailing uses, amenities in place today, current staffing, infrastructure and facilities, and the Park’s natural characteristics. These conditions help shape the issues, challenges, and opportunities discussed in Chapter 5.

### **3.1 CURRENT USES**

Current uses in the park generally fall within three categories: Habitat, Passive Uses, and Active Uses. Each of these categories describes a particular type of use, but they are not necessarily spatially exclusive to one another. These use categories within the Park are each described in detail below.

#### **3.1.1 Habitat**

A majority of the Park can be placed in the Habitat category in that it is designated as a Nature Park. Habitat areas are generally intended for limited human use related to passive activities that minimize the disturbance to the natural areas. To further Dr. Evangeline Bowie’s wishes, the Habitat areas are managed for the conservation of the Park’s multiple biotic communities. Management and maintenance in these areas have included some invasive species removal, prescribed burns, and currently staff, in conjunction with State Foresters and the Park Board, are working on a Forestry Management Plan that includes thinning some of the overpopulated Loblolly Pine Trees.

#### **3.1.2 Passive Uses**

Park trails offer many opportunities for passive uses. These types of uses include hiking and walking, wildlife viewing, running, and mountain bike and horseback riding. Most of the Park’s trails, which also offer abundant educational resources, are semi-improved grass, dirt, mulch, or gravel paths, though with one paved path—connecting the Nature Center parking lot to, and around, the Treehouse playground. Several benches are provided along the trail system along with informational kiosks.

### 3.1.3 Active Uses

Active uses generally have a higher impact on surrounding habitat and typically are centered around picnic and play areas or fishing ponds. Bowie Park has relatively few active uses currently, with the majority located near or around Lake Van. Three picnic shelters exist within the park, two on the shore of Lake Van, where picnic tables and grills can also be found. The third shelter lies in the northwestern part of the Park, between Lake Anna and Lake Byrd. Other opportunities for active use can be found at the Treehouse Playground, Bowie Nature Center, and Joann’s Outdoor Classroom. All are situated in the east end of the Park, near the Lake Van area, with the Playground and Nature Center being accessible via the main entrance road. The Outdoor Classroom can be gained by means of a short trail leading from the rear of the Nature Center.

### 3.1.4 Programs

Programs at Bowie Nature Park include both active and passive uses. Programs include summer day camps, nature classes for adults and/or children, school tours, scout programs, special events like the Haunted Forest, concerts, and Star Parties. Bowie staff partner with organizations like Bernard Seyfert Astronomical Society and Williamson County Health Department to put on many events and programs. Programs have greatly increased in the last several years. Participants in programs have nearly doubled since 2011. In that year the Park had just over 6,000 participants, but by 2013 participants in programs had jumped to just over 12,000 people.

## 3.2 CURRENT STAFF

Currently the Park’s staff is larger than at any time since Dr. Bowie deeded the land to the City of Fairview. Positions include:

- Community Services Director—core duties include: overseeing the overall operations of the Parks and Public Works Departments.
- Park Superintendent—core duties include: overseeing and participating in the maintenance and up-keep of the Park and related equipment, assisting in planning, layout and completing of projects, and overseeing the different park management plans (i.e. forestry, trails, etc.)
- Program Director—core duties include: planning, developing, and implementing classes, summer camp, and special events, overseeing all naturalist staff, part-time receptionist, and summer camp staff, overseeing volunteer program, and marketing/public relations programs.
- Naturalist—currently the Park has one full-time Naturalist. Core duties include: assisting Program Director with programming classes, summer camp, and special events, teaching classes, answering calls and greeting visitors, and responsibility of live animals in the Discovery Room.

- Park Maintenance—currently the Park has 2 full-time Park Maintenance workers. Core duties include: trail maintenance, trash pickup, upkeep of outdoor restrooms, facility management, lawn care for the developed areas in the Park and City Hall, and setup, breakdown, and trash pickup during special events.
- Park Police—currently the Park has one full time and two part-time Park Police. Core duties include: park safety, closing the Park down at night, recording and reporting weather data to NOAA, and closing and opening trails based on trail conditions.
- Part-time Front Desk Receptionist—currently this person works Tuesday for a half day and works all day Saturday. Core duties include: answering calls, greeting guests, answering questions, some animal husbandry, and light cleaning of the front desk.
- Part-time Contract Naturalist—currently this person works as needed. Core duties include: heading the Park’s outreach program, helping with school tours at the Park as needed, and helping with special events as needed.

### 3.3 PARK AMENITIES

The Park has many amenities that would be found in a traditional “Nature” park. The table below identifies which amenities exist in Bowie Nature Park.

AMENITY	IN PARK	AMENITY	IN PARK
Benches	35	Shelters	3
Cooking Grills	8	Dog Waste Bag Stations	4
Fountain	1	Unsheltered Outdoor Classroom	1
Garbage Receptacles	17	Drinking Fountains	2
Gazebo	1	Kiosks	7
Horse Tie Offs	2	Pier	1
Picnic Tables	36	Bridges	10
Playground	1	Pay Stations	2
Stand Alone Swing Set	1	Workout Stations	4
Trails (Walking/hiking, horseback and mountain bike)	Approximately 17 miles	Stage	1
Boardwalk	1		

## **3.4 PARK INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **3.4.1 Bowie Park Nature Center**

The Nature Center was completed in 2003 and includes the main building, a small storage shed, small carport for Park ATV vehicles, and a parking lot. It acts as a welcome center, and also houses programs, special events, the Bowie Museum, staff offices, and the Discovery Room. The Nature Center is also occasionally rented by the public. Two main offices exist for staff, but various desk spaces, used by Park Police, and several empty spaces are available. The building has two public restrooms, for men and women, and one staff restroom. The foyer consists of a large open area with fireplace, nature exhibits, Bowie Museum and welcome desk. Completing out the Nature Center are one classroom and a storage room.

### **3.4.2 JoAnn's Outdoor Classroom**

Janie Wells had Joann's Outdoor Classroom built in Bowie Nature Park October 2002 in memory of her daughter Joann Tiesler. The Classroom is a 1,000 square foot facility that can seat 100 people and features a stage, 2 lockable storage areas, mobile tables and benches, and a wooden fence with gates. Its primary use is as an outdoor classroom to support the park and schoolteachers when students come to the park for nature classes. Sharing a parking lot with the Nature Center, the Classroom also can be rented for special occasions. Electricity was provided to the Classroom in 2011 through a grant obtained by the Friends of Bowie Nature Park.

### **3.4.3. Signage**

Trails are well marked with directional signage. These signs were purchased by The Friends of Bowie Nature Park. The signs help visitors find their way on the 17 miles of trails. Additionally spaced throughout the park are 7 informational kiosks providing information about trails, the Park and upcoming programs—while signage can also be found in the form of pay stations for horseback riders and mountain bike riders. Throughout the Nature Park, signs direct people to destinations and provide other useful information.

### **3.4.4 Roads and Parking Lots**

One of the paved roads on the property is Bowie Lake Road, the entrance road to the Park off of Highway 100. Diverging from this road to the left, just after entering the park, is the chip and seal entrance road used to access the Nature Center and surrounding area. Bowie Lake Road also continues as a paved road past the Nature Center turn-off to the Treehouse Playground and the parking area for Lake Van. The other paved road is the Shelter #2 Loop Road which is located on the northeast corner of Lake Van.

The Nature Center parking lot is gravel and is located on the south side of the Nature Center. Other parking areas are paved and can be found near the Treehouse Playground, the outdoor restrooms, the picnic area near Shelter #1 and an area around Shelter #2. The open field south of the Playground is used for horse trailer parking and parking during large special events.

### **3.4.5 Outdoor Restroom**

The outdoor restroom is a permanent building located just northwest of the Treehouse Playground. It includes a women's and men's restroom. The restroom includes electricity with heat.

### **3.4.6 Treehouse Playground**

In May of 1998 the Fairview Community built the "Treehouse Playground". The Treehouse Playground is a fantastic playground for children and parents that provides safety without sacrificing fun. It has multi-level wooden structures with mazes, inter connecting tunnels, ramps, bridges and ladders. There are areas set aside for toddlers as well as a wheelchair assessable area. The playground area includes picnic tables and a 1/4 mile hard-surface walking trail.

### **3.4.7 Pine Tree Stage**

It is an open-aired covered stage with bench seating in front located between Lake Van and the Main Power line. The stage's original dimensions are roughly 18'-3" wide by 14'-3" deep. The stage had an expansion of floor and roof area after initial construction with monetary and labored help from the Friends of Bowie Nature Park in 2004. In 2007 the Friends of Bowie Nature Park paid to replace the roof. The final dimensions are roughly 28'-3" wide by 14'-3" deep.

## **3.5 VEGETATION**

From the "Ecology Report of the Bowie Nature Park" prepared by Civil and Environmental Consultants (CEC) in 2008:

The terrestrial environment of the Bowie Nature Park consists primarily of hardwood forest, pine plantations, and an open field area. Before Dr. Bowie purchased the land in the 1950's, most of the areas had been cleared for cultivation. Woodlands currently occupy more than 650 acres on the Bowie Nature Park, a majority of the park's total area. Pine (approximately 360 acres) and mixed deciduous hardwood forests (approximately 297 acres) dominate the natural landscape of the park.

For additional information about vegetation and Bowie Park Burn Plan, see Appendix 7 of the "Conservation Easement"

## **3.6 FISH AND WILDLIFE**

Once again referencing the "ecology Report of Bowie Nature Park" prepared by CEC—Bowie Park is home to a diverse community of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish depending on both terrestrial and aquatic habitat types. Over 40 species of amphibians and reptiles have been observed in the park, with an additional 17 species listed as "likely to occur but not yet observed." More than 80 species of birds have been identified in the park by former Park naturalist Melissa Bell, and in excess of 200 individual fish species representing 45 families were collected according to Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation protocols.

According to the TDEC Division of Natural Heritage, 4 state-listed species of special concern were identified within a 4-mile radius of the Park—the Beaked Trout Lily (*Erythronium rostratum*), Eggert’s Sunflower (*Helianthus eggertii*), Small-headed rush (*Juncus brachycephalus*), and Large-leaved Grass of Parnassus (*Parnassia grandifolia*). In addition, CEC identified a Sharpscale Sedge (*Carex oxilepis* var. *pubescens*), also a state-listed species of concern. (Conservation Easement, 2008)

For more wildlife information see Appendix 7 of the “Conservation Easement”.

## 4 THE CITY OF FAIRVIEW'S PARK SYSTEM SURVEY 2012 SUMMARY

The City of Fairview and Fairview Parks Board created a survey to better understand how Bowie Nature Park was being used and how often people typically visit. The survey also included questions about the citywide Park System, and what initiatives the public would like to see pursued in terms of the Park System as a whole.

The survey was first available in September 2012 at Nature Fest in Bowie Nature Park. It then was available on the City of Fairview's website and at the Nature Center through December 2012. A total of 327 survey responses were collected.

The relevant results from this survey also help shape the issues, challenges, and opportunities discussed in Chapter 5.

A copy of the survey and the answers for questions number 1 through 4 can be found in Appendix A.

For analysis and summary the survey can be divided into 2 sections. The first section requested quantitative information from participants in questions 1 through 4. The second section asked qualitative questions in questions number 5 and 6.

### 4.1 QUANTITATIVE DATA SUMMARY (QUESTIONS #1-4 OF THE SURVEY)

Based on the 327 returned surveys, overwhelming numbers of visitors to Bowie Nature Park use the trails, with 245 of those accessing them for "walking/hiking". The next largest groups were those who use the Park to "picnic" (149 people) and those using the "Treehouse Playground" (125 people).

Participants were asked about what special events they had attended at Bowie Nature Park in the last 12 months. Out of the 327 survey takers, 203 had attended Nature Fest. May Fest was the second most attended event with 73 people.

When asked how many times the participants had visited Bowie Nature Park in the last year, the highest number of participants (92 people) had visited the park between 13 and 25 times. The rest of the ranges, from 1-4 all the way up to 25 or more times, were pretty evenly distributed. Sixty-three people had visited 1-4 times while 59 had visited the Park more than 25 times.

The last question in the quantitative section asked participants to rank the importance of a list of initiatives that the Park Administration could pursue. These initiatives could or could not be something they would pursue in Bowie Nature Park. When looking at how participants ranked initiatives—as either "very important" and "somewhat important"—more than 50% of the survey responders saw five initiatives as "very important" or "somewhat important". The "starting nature programs" initiative had 70.3% of responders ranking it as "very important" or "somewhat important". The second highest initiative ranked was "building more hiking trails," with 67.7% of the survey participants seeing the initiative as "very important" or somewhat important. Third was "acquiring new park land" (63.3%), fourth was "build more picnic areas" (58.4%), and fifth was "community garden" (57.8%).

## 4.2 QUALITATIVE DATA SUMMARY (QUESTIONS #5 & 6 OF THE SURVEY)

To summarize the data, answers for question #5 were looked at separately from question #6. For each question answers were read several times. Common themes were determined among the answers for each question. Answers were then coded under the different themes. Top answers are summarized in the next sections.

### 4.2.1 Results for Question #5 What other amenities or facilities would you like to see added to our park system?

Out of the 327 survey responses, 147 had a response to question #5. The following are the top 5 recurring answers:

#### 1. Horseback Riding: 34 different people

The largest group of answers pertained to horseback riding, with the majority wanting more horse trails or the opening up of old ones, and many also desiring to see the trails open more often. Below is a breakdown of the results:

	# of responses	% of those who answered #5 (147)	% that filled out a survey (327)
Mentioned Horses	34	23%	10%
More horse trails	22	15%	6%
Trails open more often	15	10%	5%
Make horse ring/arena	4	3%	1%
Horse picnic area	2	1%	Less than 1%
Shower or water for horses	2	1%	Less than 1%
Horses to rent	1	Less than 1%	Less than 1%

## **2. Recreational facilities: 25 different people**

The second largest group of answers were from people who wanted more recreational opportunities. (Most wanted these not to be in the Bowie Park, but would like to see them in the City.) Below is a breakdown of the results:

	# of responses	% of those who answered #5 (147)	% that filled out a survey (327)
Mentioned Recreational Needs	25	17%	8%
Add soccer, football, volleyball courts	19	13%	6%
Swimming Pool	8	5%	5%
Skate Park	4	3%	1%

## **3. Programming: 19 different people**

The third largest group of repeated answers included people wanting more programming. Programming wants were split into classes, concerts/plays and Rehab center. Below is a breakdown of the results:

	# of responses	% of those who answered #5 (147)	% that filled out a survey (327)
Mentioned Programming Needs	19	13%	6%
More concerts/plays	11	7%	3%
Add classes	7	5%	2%
Wildlife Rehab facility	1	Less than 1%	Less than 1%

#### **4. Camping: 18 different people**

The fourth largest group of repeated answers included people wanting some form of camping; this included everything from primitive to RV opportunities

	# of responses	% of those who answered #5 (147)	% that filled out a survey (327)
Mentioned wanting campsites	18	12%	6%

#### **5. Add physical structures in Bowie Park: 13 different people**

The fifth largest group of repeated answers included people wanting some kind of facility in the park to include more restrooms, meeting places, and stage. Below is the breakdown of the results:

	# of responses	% of those who answered #5 (147)	% that filled out a survey (327)
Mentioned Structural needs in Bowie Park	13	9%	4%
Restrooms	8	5%	2%
Meeting/rental space	5	3%	2%
Better stage/amphitheater	3	2%	1%

#### 4.2.2 Results for Question #6 Please include any COMMENTS you have below.

Out of the 327 surveys there were 88 surveys that had a response to question #6. The following are the top 4 recurring answers:

##### 1. Nice Park/Great Job: 24 different people

The biggest recurring answer for question #6 included remarks about the park doing a great job and/or how great they think the park is.

	# of responses	% of those who answered #6 (88)	% that filled out a survey (327)
Nice Park/Great Job	24	27%	7%

##### 2. Need for Sports/Rec Facilities: 22 different people

The second highest repeated answer was about the need for sports and rec facilities (Soccer, football, volleyball). Also included are those that wanted a pool and a skate park.

	# of responses	% of those who answered #6 (88)	% that filled out a survey (327)
Need for Sports/Rec Facilities	22	25%	7%

##### 3. Leave Park Alone: 18 different people

The third highest group of answers included people that wanted the park to be left the way it was. (There seemed to be a lot of confusion in regards to the survey being just for Bowie Park rather than that is was for the entire Park System.)

	# of responses	% of those who answered #6 (88)	% that filled out a survey (327)
Leave Park Alone	18	20%	5%

**4. Horseback Riders Wants/Concerns: 10 different people**

The fourth highest group of recurring answers included comments of wanting more horse trails and/or separate horse only trails and also concerns with how often the trails were closed.

	# of separate responses	% of those who answered #6 (88)	% that filled out a survey (327)
Horse Wants/Concerns	10	11%	3%

## 5 KEY ISSUES, CHALLENGES, & OPPORTUNITIES

Chapter 5 explores the key issues, challenges, and opportunities facing Bowie Nature Park over the next 20 years. This chapter provides the rationale for the recommendations made in Chapter 6, based upon a number of factors. These factors include the context and current conditions of the Park, community input through the 2012 Park System Survey, and staff recommendations.

The key issues confronting the Park can be placed in these 4 general categories:

- Park Facilities and Infrastructure
- Habitat Management
- Programming Opportunities
- Staffing

Each of these 4 categories is explored in the chapter. For each category, a summary of related challenges and opportunities is shown, along with additional detail and discussion. Actions to address these challenges and opportunities are offered where applicable. The intent of this chapter is to provide a basis, rationale, and a desired outcome of the projects. It is expected that specifics of programs or projects will be reviewed and refined in the future based on the needs and constraints in place at the time.

### 5.1 PARK FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Although the role of the Park is to provide a natural resource area, some facilities and infrastructure are necessary to ensure that visitors can fully enjoy it as a recreational and educational asset. However, careful selection and placement of improvements is critical to stay consistent with the Park's primary mission as a natural resource area and to stay within the confines of the Conservation Easement.

#### 5.1.1 Amenities for Active and Passive Uses

The number of Park visitors has grown in the last several years, mirroring the City of Fairview's growth and increasing the need for more amenities to better serve Park users. More benches should be added in scenic and commonly visited areas of the Park. Benches allow visitors to sit and enjoy nature and/or take a break while on the trail.

When looking at the 2012 survey and how people use the Park, picnicking was one of the top uses. More picnic tables should be added outside the Playground area, near the horse parking, and around Lake Van.

A 150 linear foot long pedestrian bridge should be built to connect Shelter #1 to Shelter #2. This will allow better accessibility to the eastern part of Lake Van and provide Shelter #2 renters easier access to restroom facilities.

A scenic bridge should also be built over the culvert on Lake Van's spillway. A majority of trail users walk, ride, or run over this culvert to get to the trails or exit the trail system. There should be a more eye pleasing and more natural looking entrance to the trails over this culvert.

A bridge should be built on the Perimeter Trail over Little Turnbull Creek to help walkers safely cross. Special attention should be made in designing and building this bridge to take into account the sensitive area in and around the Creek.

If feasible, a water spigot should be added to the horse trailer parking to provide water for horses. Riders would bring their own bucket to fill and use the water the Park provides. Currently there is no water source near this area, so research needs to be done on how to get the water there and if an outside agency or company will be needed to help.

Though the Park has very adequate signage, many of the signs need to be updated or replaced. An inventory of sign needs should be done and prioritize for those that have the most need for fixing or replacement. Signs should be replaced on as-needed basis.

A wildlife viewing blind should be added to the Park to give visitors a better chance to see wildlife. An ideal location would be behind the Nature Center. It would be convenient to keep bird feeders filled, attracting birds, squirrels, and other wildlife. It would also allow it to be more easily utilized with a program.

### **5.1.2 Facility Needs**

Bowie Nature Park has several facilities that help enhance park visitor's experience, however some are in need of upgrades, and as park use continues to grow, new buildings will soon be needed as well.

#### **Nature Center Upgrade**

The Park would greatly benefit from a larger Nature Center, accommodating for more programs and rental space. With one classroom that also serves as the Discovery Room for the public, expansion in programming is limited as are also rental opportunities.

Staff would like to offer summer camps to multiple age levels during the same week; however with one classroom this is not possible. Because the classroom is also the Discovery Room, the public is excluded from the Discovery Room during the weeks of camp.

The Nature Center provides much needed meeting space in Fairview, but very few people take advantage by renting it due to several factors: a) limited space, b) live snakes and turtles in the classroom/Discovery Room, and c) lack of a kitchen.

An evaluation should be completed to find the most economical way to expand classroom and rental space available. Possibilities could include the addition of a multipurpose room to the back-eastern part of the building, or conversion of staff offices into classroom space with the option of moving staff to a new building. This evaluation

should be a priority so plans may be put into place to fund such a large capital improvement.

The new space should include some sort of small kitchen for rentals as well as space that can be used in multiple ways, coupled with partitioning so as to allow several different programs to run simultaneously. Also needed are spaces for the Nature Center captive animal maintenance to take place out of the public eye, and more tables and chairs that can be easily stored and moved for different programs or rentals.

### **JoAnn's Outdoor Classroom Upgrade**

JoAnn's Outdoor Classroom is a creative hands-on, covered, open air, teaching area where students can discover their connections with nature. It is well shaded with the tree canopy, making it very dark inside even on sunny days.

More lights should be added to better light the Classroom. In 2012 the Friends of Bowie Nature Park acquired grant money that allowed the addition of electricity. Lights and fans were added, however it still is not quite enough light to illuminate the Classroom for many more detailed labs and art projects the staff would like to do with students in the Outdoor Classroom.

Also, more tables are needed to better facilitate programs there. These tables should resemble the rustic look of the benches and tables already in the Classroom.

### **Stage**

The Pine Tree Stage that currently exists west of Lake Van should be replaced. It has structural issues that make it unsuitable for large equipment or for a large group performance, according to the Codes Department. The area also is too small for larger concerts and events. This stage could be rebuilt in the same spot to host smaller concerts or plays.

A larger stage should be built near the horse parking west of the Treehouse Playground. The field around it would provide space for many more people to enjoy a performance. The area already has electricity and temporary stages have been used in this area for past events in the Park.

Partial shade should be added to both stage areas. Shade can improve attendance in warmer months. Support poles should be installed as needed to hang removable, weather-resistant, triangular tarps that will provide shade for visitors.

### **Maintenance Building**

Currently the park maintenance staff uses a shed and carport in the Public Works compound to house their equipment. This leaves large equipment such as a tractor and mowers out in the elements.

A new maintenance building should be built in the Park that can accommodate all the equipment needs and provide extra storage space. This protection will prolong the life of the large equipment the Park owns and move it closer to where it is mainly used.

### **5.1.3 ADA Accessible Amenities**

The Park provides passive and active recreation for many user groups. However, those with mobility issues are presently underserved. The only hard surface path currently accessible to such persons is that connecting the Nature Center to, and around, the Treehouse Playground. One of the existing trails in the Park's trail system should be upgraded to bring it up to ADA standards. The Lake Van Trail has been considered as a possible choice for such a project. However, the logistics of the terrain, combined with the expense, make the plan economically unfeasible. Two other possibilities that have been discussed by the Park Board are a) ADA accessibility for a part of the Loblolly Loop Trail, and b) bringing the trail from the Nature Center to Joann's Classroom into ADA compliance. The latter would have the particular advantage of making Park educational activities and programs easily accessible to all participants.

The trail circling the Outdoor Classroom ideally should also be made ADA accessible. This will provide a trail leaving from the Nature Center, making it possible for school groups, including individuals with mobility issues, to journey into the woods while also accessing programming at both the Outdoor Classroom and the Nature Center. It also would provide an easy trail for all users, one upon which Nature Park staff could direct first time visitors to the Park wishing to take a short hike—and equally would be popular with families with small children in strollers.

An electric 4 to 6 person utility vehicle should be purchased or at least rented in warmer months. This vehicle could be used in warmer months to take those with limited mobility on a tour of the trails. Volunteers could be utilized to run these tours a couple times of week. It would give people who normally could not see the Park a chance to see and learn about the Park. It could also be used during special events to help transport people. This utility vehicle would also be ideal way to show small groups the Park, such as the Commissioners or a journalist and photographer.

### **5.1.4 Roads and Parking Lots**

The road to the Nature Center and the Nature Center parking lot should be paved. There is a plan to accomplish this as part of the Entrance Road Widening Project Phase II that was started in early 2013.

### **5.1.5 Trail Maintenance**

A "Trail Improvement" plan was developed in 1998 to address a badly eroded trail system. Two more plans followed, in 2002 and 2008. After spending several years rerouting, building water bars, and diverting erosion runs, the Park, for the most part, has an environmentally sound sustainable trail system.

In order to keep the trail system at this point Bowie Nature Park trails should:

- Support current and future uses with minimal impact to the Park's ecosystem;

- Produce little to no soil loss or movement while allowing vegetation to inhabit the area;
- Allow for pruning or removal of certain plants for maintenance;
- Not adversely affect the Park's wildlife (flora and fauna)
- Accommodate existing use while allowing only appropriate future use; and,
- Should require little rerouting and minimal long-term maintenance.

Currently the Trail Maintenance Plan is being updated by Park Staff and should be completed in early 2014. This Plan should be updated continually every 3 to 5 years.

### **5.1.6 Rental Policies**

As facilities are being updated and/or expanded, rental policies and fees should be reviewed and updated.

## **5.2 HABITAT MANAGEMENT**

There is a need for better defined habitat management plans that are reviewed and updated on a regular basis. Since the Park is not an exclusive habitat conservation area, habitat management plans and enhancement projects should be carefully evaluated as to the anticipated impacts on Park users and designed to achieve a compatible balance of habitat and human needs.

To meet this need, the City of Fairview has contracted with a registered Forester to prepare a comprehensive Forest Management Plan that includes but is not limited to:

- An inventory of existing trees within the park
- A plan to thin the pine trees in order to temper susceptibility to insect infestation
- A burn plan to reduce fuel load within the park and reduce the chance of wildfire
- An invasive plant removal plan that prioritizes problem areas establishes removal techniques and calls for the replanting with native plants if possible.

Once approved the Forest Management Plan will be attached as Appendix B.

## **5.3 PROGRAMMING OPPORTUNITIES**

Dr. Bowie wrote that she wanted Bowie Nature Park to be preserved so that the public could study and appreciate the wildlife and its preservation. Bowie Nature Park's programming reflects her wish by using the beautiful land she donated to teach children and adults about the natural world. Park program attendance has nearly doubled in the last 3 years, from 6,000 to

12,000. Programming staff should continue to expand the programs and programming partnerships currently in place so that attendance numbers can continue to rise.

### **5.3.1 Interpretative Programs**

Interpretive programs provide visitors with an educational and fun experience, contribute to public awareness of natural resources, and attract tourists.

The interpretative programs currently offered at the Park are vast, including school tours at the Park and outreach programs, Scout programs, nature classes for people of all ages, and exercise in nature type programs.

Though the Park had nearly 20 different schools and home school groups visit in 2013, there is a huge potential for this number to grow. Greater cooperation and collaboration with area schools should be fostered. A brochure of school related offerings should be created, one that would list state standards, and which would be distributed to schools. A relationship should be cultivated with area principals to better encourage school visitation to the Park, while Park staff could possibly conduct teacher workshops, providing educators with ideas on how to incorporate nature into their classrooms and curriculums.

Programs offered to Scouts include badge workshops and Eagle Scout and Golden Award projects. Relationships with community troops should be cultivated and information disseminated about how programming staff can help boys and girls achieve and meet the requirements necessary to obtain nature-related badges. Relationships of this type can also attract more Scouts to help with Park projects such as designing and constructing new bridges or interpretive signs.

The Park's summer day camp, Camp Bowie, should be expanded as space becomes available, and should provide opportunities for different age ranges. Currently Camp Bowie is for children 9-12 years old and covers six weeks in June and July. Ideally the camp would have 3 classrooms with different age groups in each; all learning the same nature related theme for the week but tailored to their ages. Age ranges would be 5 and 6 year olds, 7 and 8 year olds, and 8 to 12 year olds. Until more classroom space is available, alternating different weeks for different age groups should be considered. For example, possibly 2 weeks of 5-7 year olds and 4 weeks of camp for 8-12 year olds.

Nature related programs for the public vary greatly from preschool-aged classes to adult only classes. The Park has programs throughout the year, however historically programs in the summer slowdown because of Camp Bowie and limited staff. During mild summers, the Park has many visitors and programs should be made available. Adding summer programs, similar to what is offered during the school year for the public, should be made a priority as staffing increases.

### **5.3.2 Special Events**

The Park offers several special events throughout the year. The most recently-added have been Barks for Parks, Haunted Forest, Fall Fun Day, and May Fest. These events should be evaluated by staff to determine what works well, what areas are in need of improvement, and possible ways to attract more participants. As they are evaluated, new

ideas for special events may be added, either as new events, or to replace an existing event.

Staff and volunteers should continue to attend community special events such as Nashville's Earth Day Celebration and Fairview's Back to School Bash. These events allow the public to become informed about Fairview and Bowie Park, and provide staff an opportunity to get information out about upcoming programs

### **5.3.3 Going Green**

The Park should take steps to become even more of a model of "green" habits and sustainable stewardship of our resources. The goal should be to reduce its ecological footprint, making the Park healthier for visitors and staff alike, and to inspire community members to think about solutions to the environmental problems we face together. A recycling program and composting demonstration area should be started. When new items are bought or built, recycled or sustainable products should be used when possible. Also, energy efficient and water wise products should be considered a priority. A small vegetable garden should be built and maintained near the Nature Center to be used as a teaching garden about sustainable practices and to teach children where their food comes from.

### **5.3.4 Promoting and Marketing Programs at the Park**

The Park should work on effectively reaching the community, keeping it informed about programs and happenings in the park. Currently monthly press releases are sent out to area media outlets announcing upcoming events. The Park website and Facebook page is regularly updated with upcoming events as well. Program Guides are made quarterly, programs are promoted on Channel 19, and flyers are posted on Park kiosks. For larger events, banners have been made and flyers distributed around town by staff and volunteers. A few times radio or television commercials were purchased as well.

Paid advertisement for special events should be budgeted and made a priority. Press releases do not guarantee that the information will be used. Better outreach could be accomplished with paid ads—whether radio, magazine, newspaper, or television—and should be budgeted for these events.

The Park should also expand its online outreach. One way to do this is with a computer program such as Constant Contact™ (Markowitz), an email distributor which serves as an alternative to social networking sites. Constant Contact™ is a service (client) for creating professional looking emails, newsletters, cards, invitations, etc., and sending them out to an unlimited number of contacts. The service also provides feedback after distribution, data which includes the number of emails opened and links that are clicked on. This information can be used to evaluate the most effective time to send information and also to assess the interest of certain programs. Although it is not a free service, it would allow the Park to reliably send out emails to everyone on its mailing list and to minimally assess its outreach effort. This approach would allow the Park to contact users that do not have Facebook accounts but who still have email access.

The Park should research and evaluate cost effectiveness of mailing out the Program Guides to all Fairview residents 4 times a year. This would give everyone in the City a chance to see what is happening in the Park, even if they do not get the local newspaper or have online access.

A brochure with information about the Park that is professionally printed should be created. This brochure could be put in area visitor centers, bed and breakfasts, hotels, and made available in the Nature Center.

### **5.3.5 Membership Program**

The Park should look into starting a membership program. Fees from membership can help offset costs of the many free programs the Park has to offer. The membership prices and benefits should be tiered to provide options. Benefits of membership could include early registration, discounts on camp, and free “members only” programs. The Park can join the Association of Nature Center Administrators (ANCA) and provide a Reciprocal Free Admission Program to members allowing them to receive free admission and/or discounts at other institutions across America and Canada. The Park can also partner with local plant nurseries and other nature-related businesses to offer discounts for Park members at these local businesses.

## **5.4 STAFFING**

The Park will need additional staff as Park use and programs at the Park continue to grow.

The Park should boost the maintenance staff from 2 to 5 in the coming years. Many trail projects require several workers at one time, and with additional staff more projects and improvements can be accomplished simultaneously. In spring and summer months, maintenance workers currently spend nearly all their time keeping up with the mowing, in the park as well as around the city. With additional workers, the staff will be able to get the mowing done but also be able to work on maintenance of the trails and other structures in the Park during these months.

A full-time front desk receptionist should be hired. Currently the naturalist fills in at the front desk greeting people, answering phones, etc., but this takes the naturalist away from program planning; also, when the naturalist is teaching, it leaves no one at the front desk. If a membership program is put into place, the full-time front desk receptionist could be placed in charge of managing it.

In the last several years, volunteer numbers have risen. The coordination of this group will become increasingly more time consuming as more Scout projects are solicited and as projects like the exotic invasive plant removal programs are initiated. A volunteer coordinator should be hired to recruit and organize volunteers, and form relationships with them.

Another full-time naturalist should be added to the staff as programming grows. With ever more schools visiting the Park, and with plans in place for nature-related classes geared to different age groups (as well as an expanded Camp Bowie and amplified summer program schedule), an additional naturalist will be needed.

## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS, IMPLEMENTATIONS, AND ASSESSMENT

This chapter is intended to provide a blueprint for Bowie Nature Park over the next 20 years. The recommendations in this chapter address the key issues, challenges, and opportunities discussed in Chapter 5. Priorities for each recommendation reflect their importance to implementing the Park's guiding principles and long-term vision. Periodic assessment of these actions is also discussed.

### 6.1 GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND LONG-TERM VISION

In the long term, Bowie Nature Park will continue to serve important habitat, ecological, open space, and recreational needs for the City. The Park should be emphasized in a way oriented toward passive uses, habitat conservation, and environmental activities. At the same time, the Park will continue to support some active uses that serve important recreational needs for the City.

### 6.2 MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations address management practices necessary to achieve the Park's long-term vision and implement its guiding principles most effectively. Management recommendations are prioritized but are listed with time frames. Each of these principles should be implemented as quickly as possible following adoption of the Master Plan. Where a dependency between recommendations exists, it is explained in the Notes column. The management recommendations are numbered as items M-1 through M-15.

Although each principle is given a priority of 1 to 3, with one being the highest priority, this should in no way indicate that the lower priority items are unimportant. Rather, the priority indicates the criticality of the recommendation to meeting the Park's long-term objectives. Failing to implement any of the practices listed would be likely to complicate successful achievement of the Park's long-term vision and the improvement recommendations listed in Section 6.3.

#	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY	NOTES
M-1	<b>Finish the update for the Trail Maintenance Plan and make updates every 3-5 years.</b> After spending several years rerouting, building water bars, and diverting erosion runs, the Park, for the most part, has an environmentally sound sustainable trail system. In order to keep the trails at this point Bowie Nature Park Trail Maintenance Plan should support current and future uses with minimal impact to the Park's ecosystem; produce little to no soil loss or movement while allowing vegetation to inhabit the area; allow for pruning or removal of certain plants for maintenance; avoid adversely affecting the Park's wildlife (flora and fauna); accommodate existing use while allowing only appropriate future use; require little rerouting and minimal long-term maintenance.	1	

M-2	<b>A registered Forester should prepare a comprehensive Forest Management Plan and steps should be taken to begin implementing said plan.</b> The plan should include an inventory of existing trees within the park, a plan to thin the pine trees in order to temper susceptibility to insect infestation, a burn plan to reduce fuel load within the park and reduce the chance of wildfire, and an invasive plant removal plan that prioritizes problem areas establishes removal techniques and calls for the replanting with native plants if possible.	1
M-3	<b>Hire 2 to 3 more maintenance staff in the coming years.</b> Many projects on the trails require several workers at one time. With additional staff more projects and improvements can be done simultaneously.	1
M-4	<b>Engage local educators to use the Park in outdoor learning and environmental curricula.</b> A brochure of school related offerings should be created with state standards listed and distributed to schools. A relationship should be cultivated with area principles to better encourage school visitation to the Park and possible teacher workshops that provide ideas of how to incorporate nature into their classroom and curriculum.	2
M-5	<b>Cultivate community relationships with area Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops.</b> Information about how staff can help boys and girls meet requirements for nature-related badges should be disseminated. Relationships with these troops can also attract more Scouts to do projects at the Park like designing and constructing new bridges or interpretive signs.	2
M-6	<b>Expand Camp Bowie to reach more age groups.</b> Ideally the camp would have 3 classrooms with different age groups in each; all learning the same nature-related theme. Age ranges would be 5 and 6 year olds, 7 and 8 year olds, and 8 to 12 year olds. Until more classroom space is available, alternating different weeks for different age groups should be considered.	2
M-7	<b>Hire a volunteer coordinator.</b> The coordination of this group will become increasingly more time consuming as more Scout projects are solicited and as projects like the exotic invasive plant removal programs are initiated. A volunteer coordinator should be hired to recruit and organize volunteers, and form relationships with them.	2
M-8	<b>Reach the community in new ways to keep them informed about programs and happenings in the park.</b> Paid advertisement for special events should be budgeted and made a priority. The Park should also expand its online outreach. One way to do this is with a computer program such as Constant Contact™ (Markowitz). This type of approach would allow the	2

	Park to contact users that do not have Facebook accounts but still have email access. The Park should research and evaluate cost effectiveness of mailing out the Program Guides to all Fairview residents 4 times a year.		
M-9	<b>Develop and implement free summer programs for families and adults.</b> The Park has programs throughout the year, however historically programs in the summer decrease because of Camp Bowie and limited staff. Adding summer programs, similar to what is offered during the school year for the public, should be made a priority as staffing increases.	3	
M-10	<b>Continue to develop and implement special events and attend community events.</b> Special events attract people to the Park and provide entertainment to area residents. Attending community events put on by other groups allows Park staff to inform people about Fairview and the Park and get information out about upcoming programs	3	
M-11	<b>Make steps to be a model of green habits and sustainable stewardship of our resources.</b> A recycling program and composting demonstration area should be started. When new items are bought or built, recycled or sustainable products should be used when possible. Also, energy efficient and water wise products should be considered a priority. A small vegetable garden should be built and maintained near the Nature Center to be used as a teaching garden about sustainable practices and to teach children where their food comes from.	3	
M-12	<b>Look into starting a membership program.</b> Fees from membership can go to offset costs of the many free programs the Park has to offer. The membership prices and benefits should be tiered to provide options. Benefits of membership could include early registration, discounts on camp, and free “members only” programs. The Park can also partner with local plant nurseries and other nature related businesses to offer discounts for Park members at these local businesses.	3	
M-13	<b>Hire a full-time front desk receptionist.</b> Currently the naturalist fills in at the front desk greeting people, answering phones, etc. This takes the naturalist away from program planning, and when the naturalist is teaching it leaves no one at the front desk. If a membership program is put into place, the fulltime front desk receptionist could be put in charge of managing it.	3	
M-14	<b>Hire another full-time naturalist.</b> The Park plans to have more schools visit the Park, offer more nature related classes for different age groups, and expand its Camp Bowie and summer programs schedule. In order to accomplish these plans an additional naturalist will be needed.	3	Depends upon M-4, M-7 & M-8

M-15 <b>Update rental policies and fees.</b> As facilities are being updated and/or expanded, rental policies and fees should be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.	3
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### 6.3 IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations listed below identify specific Park improvement projects that address the challenges and opportunities discussed in Chapter 5. A time frame is assigned to each recommendation: within 1-5 years, 5-10 years, or within 10-20 years. Priorities for each recommendation indicate their relative importance within each time frame. Where a dependency between recommendations exists, it is explained in the Notes column. Improvement recommendations are numbered I-1 through I-18.

#	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY	TIME FRAME	NOTES
I-1	<b>Add benches in scenic areas around the Park.</b> Identify areas in the Park that new benches would be best used.	1	1-5 years	
I-2	<b>Add picnic tables in the developed area.</b> Add picnic tables on Lake Van and around the Treehouse Playground. Make sure trash receptacles are placed nearby.	1	1-5 years	
I-3	<b>Add a water spigot at the Horse Trailer Parking Lot.</b> Water will need to be routed up to this area to provide this amenity.	1	1-5 years	
I-4	<b>Build an ADA accessible trail as part of one of the existing trails north of Lake Van.</b> The hard surface material should be ecologically friendly.	1	1-5 years	
I-5	<b>Update and replace signage in the Park.</b> Prioritize those most in need of replacement and develop a schedule for implementation.	1	1-5 years	
I-6	<b>Tear down and rebuild current stage.</b> Demolishing the stage should be a priority for safety reasons given by the Codes Department	1	1-5 years	
I-7	<b>Construct a bridge over the spillway of Lake Van.</b> This bridge will add a more eye-pleasing entrance to the trails.	1	1-5 years	
I-8	<b>Construct a bridge on the Perimeter Trail over Little Turnbull Creek.</b> The Trail intersects the Creek so careful consideration needs be taken in planning and building in this sensitive area.	1	1-5 years	
I-9	<b>Pave the road to the Nature Center and the Nature Center parking lot.</b> There is a plan to accomplish this as part of the Entrance Road Widening Project Phase II that was started in early 2013.	1	1-5 years	

I-10	<b>Create a brochure with information about the Park.</b> The brochure will include directions to the Park, park amenities, and general park program information. This brochure will be put in area visitor centers, bed and breakfasts, hotels, and made available in the Nature Center.	2	1-5 years	
I-11	<b>Update Joann's Outdoor Classroom to better accommodate programs.</b> More lights and rustic type tables should be added	2	1-5 years	
I-12	<b>Construct a new larger stage near the horse trailer parking.</b> It should be permanent and large enough to house a large musical act.	2	1-5 years	
I-13	<b>Construct a wildlife blind near the Nature Center.</b> Feeders should be paced in filled during peak seasons to attract the wildlife.	2	1-5 years	
I-14	<b>Build a maintenance building to house equipment.</b> It should be large enough to house several mowers and tractors.	2	1-5 years	
I-15	<b>Buy or rent in warmer seasons an electric 4 to 6-person utility vehicle.</b> This vehicle needs to be able to manage the trails in a variety of conditions.	3	1-5 years	
I-16	<b>Enlarge Nature Center for programs and rental space.</b> The new space should include some sort of small kitchen for rentals, space that can be used in multiple ways, enough space with privacy that would allow several different programs to run simultaneously, space for the Nature Center captive animal maintenance to take place out of the public eye, and more tables and chairs that can be easily stored and moved.	1	5-10 years	Depends upon M-16 & M-17
I-17	<b>Develop the trail to and around JoAnn's Outdoor Classroom to be ADA accessible.</b> This will provide an ADA accessible trail that leaves from the Nature Center.	1	5-10 years	
I-18	<b>Construct a bridge on Lake Van to connect Shelter #1 area with Shelter #2 area.</b> This will allow better accessibility to the eastern part of Lake Van and provide Park users on the Shelter #2 side easier access to restroom facilities.	1	10-20 years	

## 6.4 MASTER PLAN ASSESSMENT AND REVISION

Although this Master Plan sets a 20-year vision for the Park, periodic review within that time is necessary to make minor revisions and modifications to address conditions that may arise. This plan should undergo assessment, review and revision every 5 years.

## **7 APPENDICES**

### **APPENDIX A      2012 PARK SYSTEM SURVEY**

Document to be inserted.

**APPENDIX B      FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
Document to be inserted when completed