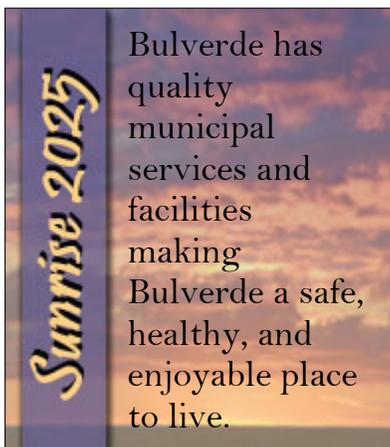


Community Services

Providing Quality Needed Services

As a new city, Bulverde provides a limited range of services to its citizens and businesses at this time. But as the city grows this will change. By the end of 2004, the city must have in place a police department. Currently, fire protection is provided by two fire departments. Service for most of the city is provided by the Bulverde Fire Department, and service for the part of the city north of Highway 46 is provided by the Spring Branch Fire Department. Emergency medical service (EMS) is provided by the Bulverde-Spring Branch Emergency Medical Service. Library service is provided by the Bulverde-Spring Branch Library. Residential and municipal solid waste is collected by Integrated Environmental Services, Inc. (IESI) through franchise agreement with the city. Recycling facilities are available within Comal County, but currently there is no curbside pick-up of recyclables. Finally, the city does not actively manage any parks or recreation activities, but a park site near the airport has been acquired by the City for future development.



Community services serve purposes ranging from health and safety to general well-being, and can include police and fire protection, emergency medical care, parks and recreation management, efforts at promoting housing opportunities, building inspections and plat approval, and solid waste management. Effective community services and facilities are major components of a city's physical, social and economic fabric. They help define the city's identity and contribute to its quality of life and economic prosperity.

The Comprehensive Plan Survey revealed that, when asked about what additional services the city should provide as it grows, ninety-three percent of respondents are either supportive or very supportive of the city providing police services. Ninety-two percent are either supportive or very supportive of providing recreational opportunities for the community's youth, and eighty-nine percent are either supportive or very supportive of providing parks and open space. Additionally, in the open-ended section of the survey, challenges related to community services included the lack of a community park or play ground, no facilities for youth, and no meeting places. When asked about priorities for growth management, seventy-nine percent of those surveyed agree that providing parks and open space are important or very important priorities. Survey respondents are very supportive of the city providing police services, parks and open space, and recreational opportunities for youth, to include playgrounds and perhaps a

community swimming pool. The need for an animal control facility was also mentioned in the survey.

When asked to rate the quality of services already provided by the city, a majority of respondents rate EMS, fire, police/sheriff and customer service at City Hall as excellent or good. EMS received the highest rating with sixty-five percent good or excellent responses, followed by fire (sixty-two percent), police/sheriff (fifty-five percent) and customer service at city hall (fifty-one percent). Animal control services had a slightly more positive than negative rating with forty-three percent good or excellent and thirty-nine percent fair or poor. On the negative side, financial management of city funds and assets received a fair/poor rating of forty percent compared to a good/excellent rating of thirty percent. Planning and development services (e.g. zoning and platting) also receive more negative than positive responses with forty-three percent fair/poor and twenty-eight percent good/excellent. Parks, facilities and the provision of open space receive especially poor ratings compared to other city services with an overwhelming seventy percent of respondents rating them fair or poor, and only sixteen percent good or excellent. Environmental protection (recycling, conservation, habitat protection) also receives negative ratings with sixty percent fair or poor, and twenty-five percent good or excellent. Finally, when asked if city services are accessible, a majority of respondents agree that they are (fifty-one percent to thirty-one percent with the remaining eighteen percent undecided).

The city must be prepared to meet the community service and facility expectations of a growing population in an orderly, cost-effective manner. The need for city services depends on multiple factors, including population and distribution, expected growth, local needs, and budgetary constraints. This chapter provides the background needed to understand the level of service currently enjoyed by Bulverde's citizens, details about current services, the adequacy of current facilities, and suggested methods for achieving goals for the future.

4.1 Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services

The Bulverde Area Fire Department and Spring Branch Fire Department are responsible for providing fire protection, rescue service and fire safety education for the citizens of the Bulverde/Spring Branch area. Up until 2002, both the Bulverde Area and Spring Branch Fire Departments were Rural Fire Prevention Districts (RFPDs), political subdivisions established by the voters in the area for the purpose of raising money through ad valorem taxes on all real property located within the districts. A Rural Fire Prevention District had the authority to collect a voter-approved tax up to three (\$.03) cents per one-hundred dollars of property value. However, in 2003 the Texas legislature did away with these districts and replaced them with Emergency Services Districts (ESDs) which have the authority to collect up to ten (\$.10) cents per one-hundred dollars of assessed property value.

In 2002 four Rural Fire Protection Districts in the region (Bracken, Spring Branch, Canyon Lake and Bulverde Area) held elections to become ESDs and set tax rates higher than three cents. Only the Bulverde Area Emergency Service District No. 5

was approved by the voters of the District, who recognized the need for additional services. The other three ESDs were rejected by the voters of their respective Districts. Currently the Bulverde Area ESD No. 5 (the Bulverde Area Fire Department) assesses a tax of \$.048 per one-hundred dollars of assessed property value. Emergency Services Districts can also use up to a half a cent (\$.005) sales tax for funding, but at this time neither the Bulverde Area nor Spring Branch Districts utilize this sales tax option. There are special provisions within the Texas Health and Safety Codes pertaining to different caps or limits on the tax rates that can be set depending on the county or area the district(s) are created in. Currently, the tax rate for Comal County Emergency Service District No. 1 which provides Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is \$0.019334 cents per one-hundred dollars of assessed property value.

These Emergency Service Districts can have multiple purposes, but the primary ones are to protect life through the provision of emergency rescue and ambulance service as well as property from fire through fire services. The second district purpose is to conserve natural and human resources. At the present time there are 91 Emergency Services Districts throughout Texas.



Bulverde Area Fire Station on Cougar Bend



New Pumper

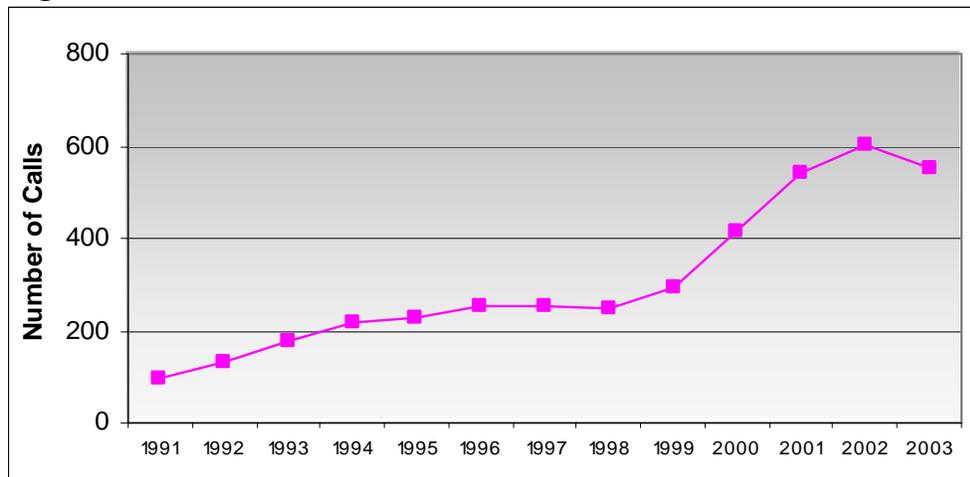
The Bulverde Area Fire Department, built in 1997, is located on Cougar Bend next to the new city hall, and its service area encompasses approximately 92 square miles, mostly south of State Highway 46 (see figure 4.1). The Spring Branch Fire Department is responsible for fire protection in the city north of State Highway 46. Bulverde Area Fire Department staff includes a chief, and four fire- fighters on duty from Monday through Friday 24 hours a day. On Saturday there are two persons on duty from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and on Sundays volunteers staff the facility. Fire fighting training is every Wednesday night. Equipment includes two brush trucks, two tankers, and a new 1,000 gallon pumper capable of pumping 2,000 gallons per minute. The new pumper meets 100% State Insurance Services Office (ISO) standards for equipment. The Department is in the process of buying a new “air truck” which will also meet 100% ISO standards.

According to the Bulverde Area Fire Department’s hydrant map, there are thirty fire hydrants in Rim Rock Ranch, twenty-six in Saddle Ridge, twenty-three in Oak Village

North, twenty-three in Bulverde Hills and five in Berry Oaks. The Chief, who came on board in 2002, noted that prior to that year these hydrants were not being tested twice a year, nor were hoses tested. Since then, inspections have increased, hoses inspected and both of the Department’s pumpers are now equipped to meet ISO standards. The department is currently working on a five-year plan, and recently obtained a U.S. Forest Service grant to pay for workers’ compensation. The existing radio system is old, but is the responsibility of Comal County. Needs for the future include a newer communication system and higher salaries for staff to become competitive with other Districts in the region. In 2018, the county intends to switch to a new “900” radio system. Radio costs will be approximately \$2,500 for a hand-held unit and \$4,500 for a mobile unit, and the total cost to upgrade communications could cost the fire department \$100,000.

The adequacy of fire and emergency medical services is primarily measured by the response time. The State Insurance Services Office (ISO) calculates ratings every ten years and assigns a rating from one to ten, with one being the best. The ideal service response, as established by the ISO, is a 1½ mile driving radius for each pumper from each fire station to an emergency. This service response criterion generally allows for a target response time of less than six minutes. Current average daytime response time in the City of Bulverde is 6.34 minutes. The nighttime average response time is 11.23 minutes, making the overall average 8.10 minutes. Portions of Bulverde are greater than 1½ driving miles from the nearest fire station, and most of the calls are in the U.S. Highway 281/State Highway 46 area. Currently, the Bulverde Area ESD is attempting to reach an agreement with the EMS District to keep a fire truck at their facility on U.S. Highway 281, and the EMS District keeping an ambulance at the fire station on Cougar Bend.

Figure 4.2 Number of Bulverde Area FD Calls 1991 - 2003



Source: Bulverde Area Fire Department

Future station locations should be located to address these areas as well as new development when and where it occurs. The Johnson Ranch area may be an ideal location for a new central station within the next twenty years. Failure to provide adequately located facilities would likely result in a higher fire insurance rating, which

would increase premiums that residents pay for coverage. The Bulverde Area Fire Department has earned a Class 7 fire insurance rating in and around the Bulverde city limits, and a Class 9 fire insurance rating for locations over five miles away from the station house. To strive for the best possible rating, the department is constantly monitoring new residential and commercial development. The Department is not scheduled for another inspection for several more years.

Table 4.1. Locations of Bulverde Area VFD Responses

Location of Call	# Calls	Percent	OST	Average	Loss
City of Bulverde	233	42%	1887	8.10	\$91,000
Comal County	282	51%	2962	10.50	\$8,000
Bexar County	25	5%	258	10.32	\$300,000
HP	1	0%	26	26.00	\$300,000
Spring Branch	11	2%	185	16.82	\$0
Total	552		5318	9.63	\$699,000

Source: Bulverde Area Fire Department

Table 4.2. Bulverde Area VFD Calls, 2003

Type of Call	# Calls	Percent
EMS	335	61%
Fire Alarm	58	11%
Hazardous Condition	25	5%
Vehicle	10	2%
False Alarm	6	1%
Mutual Aid	53	10%
C. Burn	31	6%
Structure	11	2%
Grass	17	3%
Water rescue	0	0%
Assist Public/Police Dept.	6	1%
Total	552	

Source: Bulverde Area Fire Department

The calls per year for the Bulverde Area Fire Department have risen dramatically outside the city limits (See table 4.1). Of these 552 calls, 284 (or 51% of total calls) since 1991, from 97 in that year to 603 in 2002 (See Figure 4.2). During 2003 the number of calls decreased slightly, with the department responding to 552 calls, forty-two percent of them being within the City of Bulverde and the remainder were related to residential calls, 58 (11%) business, 154 (28%) roadway, and 56 (10%) educational facilities. Table 4.2 shows the number of calls broken down by type. The department uses the National Fire Information Reporting System (NFIRS) to report this data. The NFIRS has been designed as a tool for fire departments to

report and maintain computerized records of fires and other fire department incidents in a uniform manner, and was developed by the United States Fire Administration (USFA) in partnership with the National Fire Information Council (NFIC). The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 authorizes the National Fire Data Center in the United States Fire Administration to gather and analyze information on the magnitude of the nation's fire problem, as well as its detailed characteristics and trends. In order to carry out the intentions of the Act, the National Fire Data Center established the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) to help State and local governments develop fire reporting and analysis capability for their own use, and to obtain data that can be used to more accurately assess and subsequently combat the fire problem at a national level.

The Bulverde-Spring Branch EMS is located at 4201 U.S. Highway 281 just north of State Highway 46. The facility sleeps twelve and is always staffed with four full-time paramedics and two enrolled in training. Four vehicles are available for emergency response and all are MICU capable. Table 4.3 indicates that there were a total of 334 EMS calls in 2003. Of these 167 (50% of total calls) were residential types, 38 (11.4%) were business, 106 (31.7%) roadway, and 23 (6.9%) educational facility.

Table 4.3. Bulverde Area EMS Calls 2003

Location of Call	# Calls	Percent	OST	Average
City of Bulverde	168	50.3%	1282	7.63
Comal County	166	49.7%	1815	10.93
Bexar County	0	0%	0	0
Others	0	0%	0	0
Total	552		5318	9.63

Source: Bulverde Area Fire Department

Future Needs

Physical expansion of the city is the determining factor in planning for staffing and equipment for the existing fire facility on Cougar Bend, the EMS facility on U.S. Highway 281 and any future fire and EMS facilities. The continued growth of Bulverde will require additional fire stations in areas presently outside the city limits, and at some point the city may need to assume responsibility for funding fire protection and emergency medical service. In addition to the facility requirements, there is the need for trained staff and good equipment. Staffing with the required number of fire fighters and paramedics as well as up-to-date equipment, trucks and ambulances will continue to be a demanding and costly challenge. Costs of construction, equipment and operation of a fire and emergency medical services are high, and budgetary planning should be made far in advance of the needs.

4.2 Police Services

Safety is vital to the development of an enjoyable place to live. Effective delivery of police services affects all aspects of the community. Employers and individuals frequently consider a community's level of crime in their selection process for relocation. Currently, the city has an inter-local agreement with the Comal County Sheriff's Office for three officers to police the City. Pressing issues at the current time include mailboxes being vandalized, kids involved in mischief, automobile accidents, and the use of high end drugs.

The Police Department will likely be the largest single department in the city eventually and have the largest budget of any other city department. The department will be located in the new city hall for a few years and then relocated when population growth and funds enable their own building.

Plans are for the Bulverde Police Department to have a Chief and three officers, with the Chief coming on board in the summer of 2004. As each City of Bulverde police officer is hired, one of the County's officers will be released from patrol duties in the City. There have already been fifty-five applications for the position of chief of police. The mayor is working with Walt Meyers in Garden City and other law enforcement officials in the area on strategies to attract the best possible candidates and procedures involved in setting up a police department.

Maintaining a full staff level is vital to the establishment and continued success of the department. The city will need to be vigilant in the recruitment and retention of experienced personnel. A pay scale that keeps up with other area law enforcement agencies and inflation must be a high priority.

4.3 Library Services

The Bulverde/Spring Branch Library was established in 1986 and, according to the Texas State Library, currently (2004) serves approximately 16,356 citizens in a large area including the City of Bulverde, the Spring Branch area and Northern Bexar County. It is a special purpose district (SPD), of which there are 79 in Texas, and as such can impose sales and use taxes for funding. The SPD tax is collected in addition to state tax and any other local taxes (city and county) when applicable. Currently, the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library is funded with a one half cent sales and use tax imposed within the district's boundaries.



New Library located in the HEB Center

The Bulverde Area Rural Library District encompasses a large area of western Comal County, from the county line on U.S. Highway 281 continuing north to State Highway 306, east to Farm/Market Roads 3009 and 3159, and west to the Kendall County line. The City of Bulverde is located entirely within the Bulverde Area Rural Library District. The unincorporated areas of Comal County in ZIP codes 78006, 78070, and 78163 are partially located within the District (See Figure 4.3)

The library is currently located at the HEB Shopping Center on State Highway 46, just West of U.S. Highway 281. Its original location was in a rented building in “downtown” Bulverde. In 1988, it moved to two remodeled school buildings with 3,000 square feet of space located on Cougar Bend. This site currently serves as the office of the Bulverde/Spring Branch Area Chamber of Commerce. On November 14, 2002, the library moved into their present location.



Former library location in remodeled school buildings on Cougar Bend

The Library District's Board of Trustees is in the process of planning a new permanent facility to meet the growing needs for library services in the area. The Library Board is made up of five members elected by the citizens in the District. They have contracted with Providence Consulting out of Arizona to examine the costs and design elements of a new library. Currently the Board is considering two locations in the Bulverde area for a facility estimated to have approximately 26,600 square feet of usable floor space. The square footage requirements are based on district population estimates of 31,000 in 2007 and 40,000 in 2012. The estimated cost of such a facility (excluding the land) is approximately \$4,000,000. Grant opportunities are being pursued for funding the purchase of the land and construction of the facility, and at this time the Board has not voted on the Providence design as the design for the new building.

Collections and Circulation

Table 4.4 shows collections have almost doubled over the last seven years, with a partial 2004 total of 25,738 volumes. Table 4.5 shows the circulation or total number of times (transactions) material has been checked out from the library. Circulation has increased dramatically, 287 percent since 1998. The library staff consists of a Head Librarian, four clerks (two full-time and two part-time), a part-

Table 4.6. Library Collections – Total Volumes

Fiscal Year	Volumes
1998	12,987
1999	15,114
2000	16,297
2001	18,325
2002	20,886
2003	24,628
Partial 2004	25,738

Source: Bulverde/Spring Branch Library

Table 4.7. Library Circulation

Fiscal Year	Transactions
1998	18,922
1999	22,713
2000	33,114
2001	37,786
2002	47,003
2003	73,165

Source: Bulverde/Spring Branch Library

time reference and children's librarian, and one part-time story-teller. Staff coordinates a wide variety of programs. Services are provided for all age groups ranging from children's story times to adult literacy and Internet usage and include:

- State and National Newspapers and Magazines
- Computer usage for Adults and children including Internet access by DSL
- Digital video discs, Videos, Audiocassettes, Books-on-compact discs
- Large print books
- Large collection of adult and children's books including current best sellers
- Inter-Library Loan services
- Sponsors adult book discussion groups
- Sponsors yearly Summer Reading Programs
- Sponsors GED and ESL Classes
- Weekly pre-school story time
- Librarian proctors exams for the community
- Renew books, books-on-tape and books-on-CD's by telephone

Technology

Technology has had a great influence on the distribution of information and resources. Understanding the important role of information technology and resource sharing, the Library uses automation to create links to many other libraries so area residents have access to a wealth of information beyond that available at our facility. The Library has 16 Internet access workstations, 6 PAC stations, and a computer lab with 10 Internet access workstations. The Library also has a web site, www.Bulverde.lib.tx.us.

The Friends of the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library is a non-profit organization formed to promote public use of library services and to foster appreciation of its value as a cultural and educational asset to the community. The Friends also write grants and raise money to further equip the library with items outside of its regular budget. They have purchased T-shirts for the summer reading program, bought a color copier, installed an outside drop box and funded many other projects. There are currently 100 members who are working very hard on a voluntary basis to ensure that the Bulverde area has the best possible library services that are widely used by all the citizens in the area.

4.4 Solid Waste and Recycling

The City of Bulverde has one designated provider, Integrated Environmental Services Incorporated (IESI) for residential and commercial garbage collection and another designated provider, Hill Country Logistics, for low volume users. Residential waste is collected weekly Monday through Friday by crews and equipment of IESI. Twice a year large dumpsters are provided by IESI at the intersection of Farm/Market 1863 and U.S. Highway 281 for the collection of bulky items. Residents outside the city limits may arrange for service individually with providers such as Dan's Disposal, Central Texas Waste Systems (CENTEX), or Waste Management.

In Bulverde, recyclables may be dropped off at the Justice of the Peace #3 Building from 8:30 to noon on Tuesdays. Materials accepted include plastic, tin and aluminum cans, clear and brown glass, newspapers, magazines, brown paper bags, corrugated cardboard and chipboard. The County operates a recycling and chipping drop-off center at 4744 State Highway 46 West. Brush, yard trimmings and limbs up to 9 inches in diameter may be dropped off, where they will be chipped and the resulting mulch made available for free to the citizens of Comal County. This waste reduction and recycling effort is funded in part, by grants from the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission and Alamo Area Council of Governments. Also, there is an annual collection program for household chemical waste. Citizens of Comal County may take used motor oil and oil filters, antifreeze, brake fluid, garden chemicals, cleaning products and paint supplies to New Braunfels Fire Station No. 2 located on Loop 337 near Interstate Highway 35. This collection effort is funded by Comal County and the cities of New Braunfels and Garden Ridge. At this time the City of Bulverde does not contribute any funds for this project.

4.5 City Hall

Since 2001, the Bulverde City hall has been located in Suite 236 of the Bulverde Market Center at 30071 U.S. Highway 281. Due to very limited space at this location, City Council meetings have been held at the Senior Citizens Center on Cougar Bend. A new facility is being built just north of the Senior Citizens Center on Cougar Bend and will have 20,000 square feet of space for city offices when it is completed in the early summer of 2004. The Council Chambers will accommodate many citizens in comfortable surroundings.



Temporary City Hall at Bulverde Market Center

This new facility symbolizes the coming of age of the City of Bulverde and will provide much needed office and meeting space for city services and activities.



Breaking ground for the new City Hall in December 2003.



Progress as of February 2004.



Nearly completed building, May 2004.

4.6 Parks and Recreation

Parks and recreation can enrich the lives of city residents, neighborhoods, and the City of Bulverde as a whole. Bulverde has the opportunity to develop an enviable park system with its abundance of natural features and potential for links throughout the city. Parks and open space are essential elements in any city. They enhance the quality of life while providing public space for recreation and relaxation. Many of the subdivisions in the City already have park and recreation areas within their boundaries for the enjoyment of the homeowners. The City of Bulverde currently does not provide park services but has



Site of future community park located on Bulverde Lane, looking north

obtained from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a token amount a ten-acre site for a community park located south of downtown on Bulverde Lane near the airport.

Bulverde's setting in the Hill-Country and along the Cibolo Creek creates a valuable framework for parks and trails. The city's future park system can provide a range of park types and facilities designed to serve the various needs of its residents, young and old alike. The Comprehensive Plan Survey indicated a strong desire for such facilities. The City of Bulverde will face many challenges as it seeks to and develop and manage the City's park and recreation opportunities. The primary challenge is to ensure that the park system is shaped by design rather than happenstance and meets the various needs of our residents for recreation and open space.

Park systems may be divided into five (5) classifications: neighborhood, community, regional, greenbelt, and special use, based on the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards.

Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood parks typically are 15 acres or less and serve adjacent residential areas within walking or biking distance (1/2 mile radius). Facilities include play equipment, picnic areas, multi-purpose fields and courts for sports such as basketball and tennis. The NRPA recommends that a city have 1.25 to 2 acres of neighborhood parkland per 1,000 people. To a certain extent, private parks managed by the homeowners of Bulverde area subdivisions fulfill the need for neighborhoods parks.

Community Park

Community parks tend to serve several neighborhoods within a two mile radius and provide many of the same types of facilities as neighborhood parks with the addition of athletic complexes, a swimming pool, community center, and nature preserve(s). Community parks are usually 30-100 acres in size. The NRPA recommends an average of 5 to 8 acres per 1,000 population.

Regional Park

Regional parks serve the entire city and surrounding region and are normally 200 acres in size or larger. The park is usually located in an area of unique natural beauty. Since Guadalupe State Park is only a short distance away, there really is no need for Bulverde to plan for a regional park.

Greenbelt Park

Greenbelts are linear parks which can be located along drainage ways and streets. The greenbelt serves multiple functions: linking together neighborhoods, parks, schools and other points of interest, serving as an alternative transportation corridor, and providing a buffer between different land uses. A multi-purpose trail system is typically included for walking, jogging and biking. Tremendous potential exists in Bulverde for providing greenbelts and trails. The Comprehensive Plan Survey identified a need for hike and bike trails, , and this has been recommended in

Chapter 6 - *Transportation* of this comprehensive plan. A developed trails system would provide recreational opportunities within the city, connecting neighborhoods, schools and other services, and providing links between the proposed park on Bulverde Lane and other future parks. Studies show that trails and other greenbelts have a positive impact on adjacent property values. According to the American Greenways Program of the Conservation Fund, a particular greenbelt in Boulder, Colorado, increased aggregate property values in one neighborhood by \$5.4 million, resulting in \$500,000 in additional property tax revenues. Existing natural features should be utilized whenever possible. Existing natural drainage ways currently branch out across the Bulverde area, and can serve as the base for a trail system. As part of parks and transportation planning, a hike and bike trail master plan should be developed to delineate appropriate trail locations and provide for their implementation.

Special Use Park

Special use parks are areas of special interest such as a cemetery or downtown plaza. These parks provide space for informal public gatherings and amenities such as outdoor furnishings and plantings.



Site of future community park located on Bulverde Lane, looking south

People are prepared to pay more to live close to natural park areas. The enhanced value of these properties can result in higher property tax revenues for the city. Findings from “*The Impact of Parks and Open Space on Property Values and the Property Tax Base*” by John L. Crompton suggest that residential property abutting, fronting or within 500 feet of a park area have up to 20% higher property values than similar property located away from parks.

The adequacy of existing park facilities can be determined by comparing the needs of present and projected populations with national standards. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommends providing 1.25 acres of neighborhood parkland per 1,000 population and 5 acres of community parkland per 1,000 population. These standards represent minimum objectives to be achieved. They should be used as a guide rather than a rule. Local interest and recreation trends should influence the standard adopted by the City of Bulverde. The existing ten acre site on Bulverde lane is an excellent start for this new city.

Park facilities should utilize existing natural features to the maximum extent possible. Besides significant natural features, other means to entice residents to visit park facilities include planted trees and landscaping, comfortable areas to rest, and connected pathways. Parkland can be obtained by three methods. First, the city may purchase land to be used as recreational space. Alternatively, parkland can be donated as a gift, or obtained as a dedication to the city by developers as a requirement of the subdivision process. Currently, the city does not have an

effective park dedication requirement or other process by which to obtain parkland. It must be recognized that transportation, drainage and community image objectives can also be achieved through park and open-space acquisition. The city should develop and adopt standards and location criteria for future parklands to ensure adequate distribution and maintenance of park facilities in the future.

The city can help meet the needs of youth, adults and senior citizens through the provision of diverse recreation programs. Opportunities are available to improve fitness, social, and competitive skills by taking advantage of exercise and sports programs. Special events coordinated by the city can serve to instill a sense of community through various activities and citywide celebrations. A special event already in place in Bulverde is the Jubilee, held every summer in the old town area. Summer camps or programs could also be conducted for children in kindergarten to 5th grade. The camp could offer a variety of field trips, arts and craft activities, and family nights to those enrolled. In addition, the city should coordinate the provision of recreational facilities with other providers (e.g. CISD schools, county and developers).

4.8 Emergency Preparedness

As required by the Texas Disaster Relief Act of 1975, an Emergency Management Plan was adopted by ordinance in January 1999 by Bulverde South (Ordinance No. 16-99-04-27). The plan:

“seeks to mitigate the effects of a hazard, to prepare for measures to be taken which will preserve life and minimize damage, to respond during emergencies and provide necessary assistance, and to establish a recovery system in order to return the community to its normal state of affairs.”

At this time, the City has reached an inter-jurisdictional agreement with Comal County to use the Comal County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) located in New Braunfels to address disaster events. The City must go through the County to get State and Federal aid once a state of disaster has been declared. The City of Bulverde is included in the new telephone notification system operated by the County. This system notifies residents of specific areas by telephone of potential hazardous conditions that may be heading their way. The Emergency Operations Director at the Comal County EOC is concerned that the resources of small communities such as Bulverde can be overwhelmed by a disaster that does not reach the threshold size required to trigger federal aid. City officials need to address this possibility in the near future.

4.9 Summary

Results from the Comprehensive Plan Survey show that overall citizens are pleased with the level of service they receive from the city, but feel the need for the establishment of a police department, parks, recreation opportunities for youth and open space. City staff and other employees that provide community services are

working hard to fulfill the expectations of citizens and city officials. Maintaining existing services and establishing the desired level of community services and facilities needed in the future will require continued implementation, review and evaluation of the effectiveness of ideas, goals and objectives outlined within this chapter.

8.7 Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Maintain high standards of fire and emergency medical services.

Objective 1.1: Develop a long-range plan for fire protection.

Objective 1.2: Examine the possibility of adjusting the boundaries of the Bulverde Area ESD and the Spring Branch ESD so the City of Bulverde is served by a single fire department.

Objective 1.3: Work with the Bulverde Fire Department to help review and evaluate staffing needs to assure adequate personnel resources to meet the demands of future growth.

Objective 1.4: Initiate a quarterly report by the Fire Department on its activities and issues to the Bulverde City Council to help improve communications between the City and the Fire Department.

Goal 2: Maintain low crime rate and develop a police department with quality police services.

Objective 2.1: Develop a long-range plan for police protection.

Objective 2.2: Assess policing needs on a regular basis.

Objective 2.3: Establish a police department with adequate staffing and equipment.

Objective 2.4: Get the community more involved in crime prevention programs and community policing initiatives.

Goal 3: Promote the use of library services by the citizens of the Bulverde/Spring Branch area.

Objective 3.1: Initiate a quarterly report by the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library on its activities and issues to the Bulverde City Council to help improve communications between the City and the Library.

Goal 4: Work to assure the citizens of Bulverde timely, efficient and economical solid waste service.

Objective 4.1: Assist the County and other communities in the County with the hazardous waste collection event.

Objective 4.2: Establish regulations on the disposal of hazardous materials.

Objective 4.3: Work with the Bulverde Area Fire Department to set up a hazardous waste collection event for western Comal County.

Goal 5: Meet the need for providing space for city services and meetings.

Objective 5.1: *This goal is being met with the completion of the new City Hall on Cougar Bend.*

Goal 6: Ensure adequate quantity and equal distribution of parks, open space, and recreation facilities.

- Objective 6.1: Develop the existing park site on Bulverde Lane.
- Objective 6.2: Develop minimum standards for the development and location of future parks.
- Objective 6.3: Acquire and develop parkland to meet the citizens' needs.
- Objective 6.4: Develop natural greenbelts with trail systems to provide pedestrian and biking linkages for neighborhoods, schools, parks and other destinations.
- Objective 6.5: Prepare and adopt a hike and bike trail master plan.
- Objective 6.6: Develop Bulverde's natural and man-made drainage systems for pedestrian ways, creating an open space system that will link the entire park and open space system.

Goal 7: Develop additional recreational opportunities.

- Objective 7.1: Coordinate the provision of recreational facilities with other providers (e.g. CISD schools, county and developers).
- Objective 7.2: Work to provide a range of recreational opportunities for all residents in the future.
- Objective 7.3: Assure the provision of nature appreciation and wildlife habitat areas for hiking, biking, jogging, bird-watching and picnicking.
- Objective 7.4: Work to reach an agreement with the Comal Independent School District for joint use of their athletic facilities.

Goal 8: Review and revise as necessary an Emergency Preparedness Plan with particular attention given to periodic major flooding and the transportation of hazardous materials.

Goal 9: Encourage the volunteer spirit.