



MEMORANDUM

To: Galveston County Commissioners Court
From: Grants Administration Department
Court Date: 7/20/2026
RE: Parks & Cultural Services Department
GameTime - National Demonstration Site (NDS) Statewide Initiative – Carbide Park Project

BACKGROUND

The Texas Recreation & Parks Society (TRAPS), PlayCore, GameTime, and Cunningham Recreation have joined forces through the Statewide Healthy Play Initiative to enrich the quality of life in communities across Texas. At the heart of this effort is TRAPS mission to bring people together, support park and recreation professionals, champion investment in community spaces, and ensure strong leadership so that parks and programs can continue to enrich lives across Texas.

GameTime is offering up to two-million dollars to TRAPS members to establish National Demonstration Sites that prioritize inclusion, nature integration, physical activity, and adult fitness. Applications are scored based on addressing community needs, goals of the project, and commitment to demonstrating impact through outcomes sharing. The goal of this project will be to create a welcoming, accessible outdoor play environment that removes barriers to physical activity for its local and region wide community members.

SUMMARY

Galveston County has been approved under the National Demonstration Statewide (NDS) Initiative to support the renovation and enhancement of Carbide Park, a regional recreational facility serving residents and visitors throughout Galveston County. As part of this initiative, the County is seeking funding to improve the park's playground facilities by replacing outdated equipment with modern, accessible amenities.

The approved project includes the installation of new playground equipment, safety surfacing consisting of a combination of engineered wood fiber and poured-in-place (PIP) surfacing, and inclusive play components, including specialized swings designed to accommodate children of all abilities. Upon completion, the improvements will provide a safe, accessible, and inclusive recreational environment for the community. Installation is anticipated to be completed by Spring



2027, ensuring the community can begin benefitting from the new playground improvements as quickly as possible.

The total cost of the playground improvements is estimated at approximately \$200,000 and will be funded through the FY2027 Parks & Cultural Services Capital Improvement Budget. The project will also receive an equipment discount of \$49,603.24, as quoted by GameTime, resulting in a significant cost savings to the County. To secure the quoted pricing and discount, the playground equipment must be purchased no later than December 31, 2026.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

County Contribution: \$ 200,000.00

Total Project Cost: \$ 200,000.00

RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Administration requests the Court to authorize the approval and purchase of the National Demonstration (NDS) Statewide Initiative on behalf of Galveston County's Park & Cultural Services Department.

ATTACHMENTS FOR WET SIGNATURE

None



A PLAYCORE Company

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July 1st, 2026

Martha Lee,

On behalf of GameTime and Cuningham Recreation, I wanted to personally congratulate you and your community on receiving funding from GameTime as part of the 2026 TRAPS Statewide Training and Funding Initiative.

Now more than ever, high-quality outdoor environments have proven to be essential to the communities we collectively serve, healing the minds, bodies, and spirits of children, families, and citizens across the state.

I've included a copy of a funding award certificate, and some background information on the various National Demonstration Sites that will be part of finalizing your design and project. Your specific funding award will be determined once your playground design is completed.

Again, congratulations on your upcoming project and thank you for all you do to enrich childhood and build communities through play. I look forward to seeing the impact your new National Demonstration Site has on your community!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert V. Barron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert V. Barron
Senior Vice President, GameTime



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FUNDING AWARD CERTIFICATE

This certificate entitles

to GameTime/TRAPS Statewide Program funding.

Funds are awarded based on need and according to the terms outlined in the TRAPS Statewide Funding Initiative application. Final funding amount will be determined once the NDS playground designs are completed, and funds will be applied to the purchase of the qualifying play system. Other terms and conditions may apply. Contact your GameTime Representative, for complete details about the funds awarded to your TRAPS Initiative playground and recreation project.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert V. Barron".

Robert V. Barron
Senior Vice President



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR UPCOMING
NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION SITE

Statewide Initiative Recognition

Carbide Park

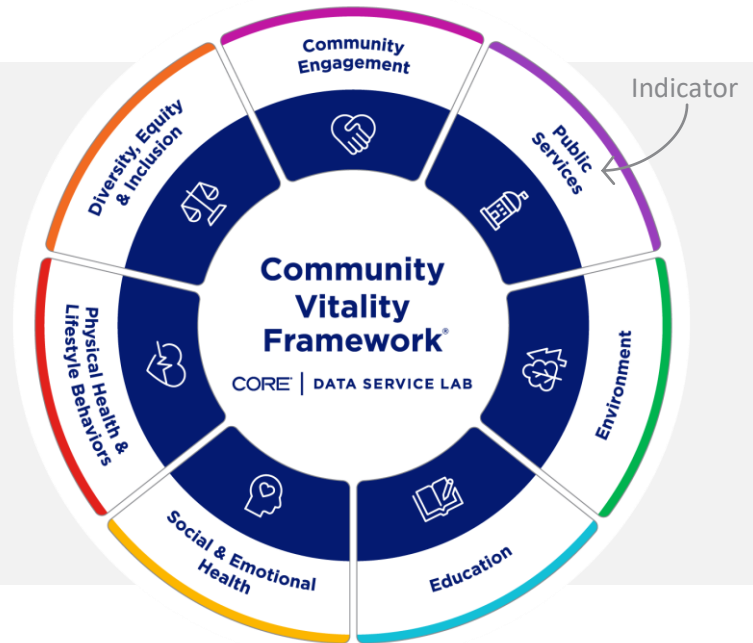
La Marque, TX

Report prepared June 2026 by:

CORE
DATA SERVICE LAB

Community Vitality

PlayCore’s Center for Outreach, Research, and Education (CORE) uses research and advocacy to help build healthy communities through play and recreation. CORE and our Data Service Lab developed the Community Vitality Framework for an evidence-based approach, grounded in comprehensive and validated research that organizes and communicates the seven indicators of a vital community.



SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Total community well-being including social, emotional, and mental wellness.



PHYSICAL HEALTH & LIFESTYLE BEHAVIORS

Health status of the community and a wide variety of health behaviors.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Social determinants of health to ensure diverse, equitable, and economically balanced populations have opportunities to be healthy.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Active participation from community members to create a strong sense of connection and nurture creative opportunities for residents.



PUBLIC SERVICES

Factors and perceptions of the local services and public spaces.



ENVIRONMENT

Natural and built environments supporting health and safety which are essential to a sustainable community.



EDUCATION

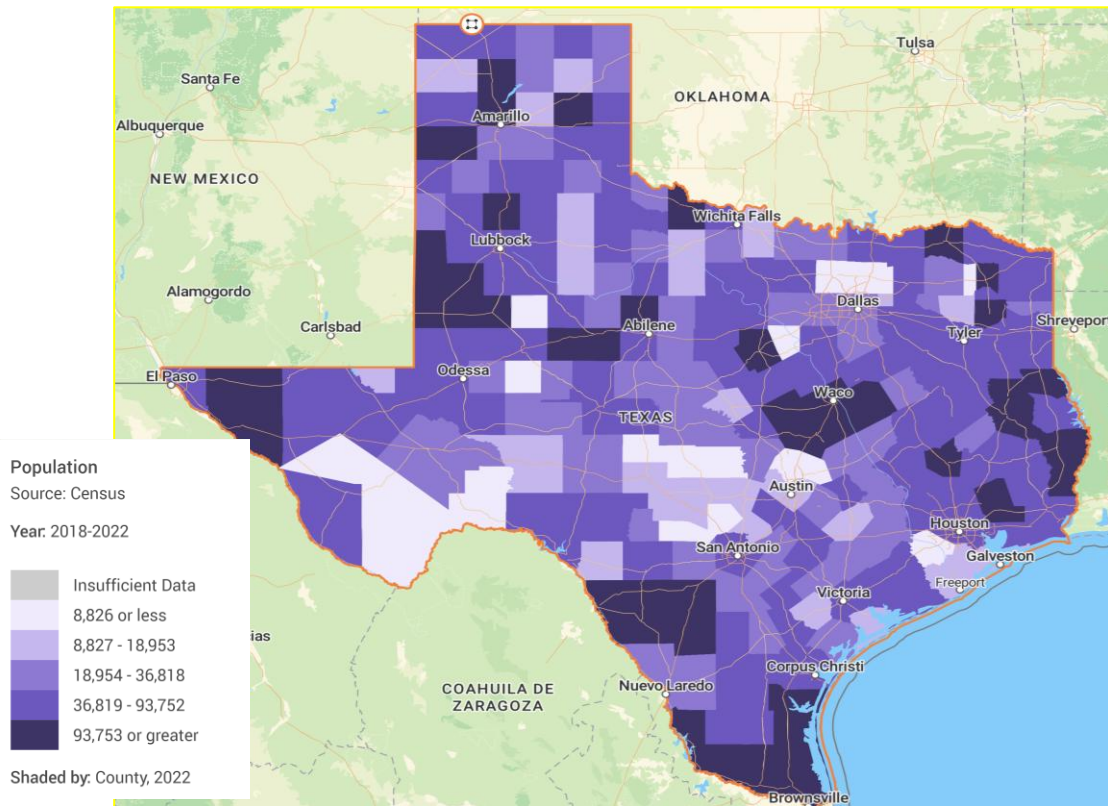
Participation and educational attainment of community from early childcare to adult learning.



Use this recommendation to see how your site’s outcome data connects to the health and vitality of your community. Use the Community Vitality Framework to help you tell your impact story.

State Data for Impact

Texas was home to **29,145,505** people in 2022.



Your site can play a vital role in the community by providing a high-quality outdoor space for physical activity and mental reprieve for all ages and abilities to develop meaningful connections.

Metric Community Vitality Indicator	State Average	National Average	Metric Definition Geographic Scale of Your NDS Site Area Data, Source
Adult Poor Mental Health Social & Emotional Health	18%	17%	Percent of adults reporting poor mental health for two weeks or more. Census Tract, CDC¹
Adult Obesity Physical Health & Lifestyle Behaviors	37%	38%	Percent of adults with obesity. Census Tract, CDC¹
Youth Disability Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	5%	5%	Estimated number of people under age 18 with one or more disabilities. Census Tract, Census²
Families in Poverty Diversity, Equity & Inclusion	12%	11%	Estimated percent of all families that live in poverty. Census Tract, Census³
Walkability Index Environment	9.1 Below Average	10	Areas with mixtures of land use and transportation infrastructure that promote walking. Block Group, EPA⁴

This table provides a comparison between state and national averages. This data is summarized by different geographic scales that are defined by population size.

National Demonstration Site Design Recommendation

Organization: Galveston County Parks and Cultural Services

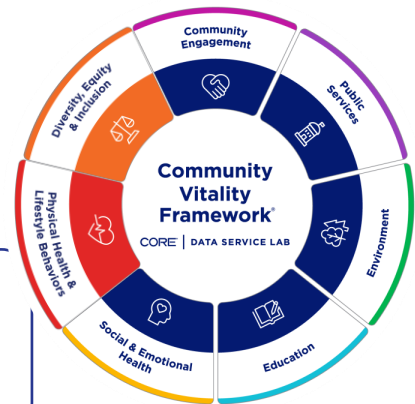
Site Name: Carbide Park

City: La Marque, TX

Top Community Vitality Goals Identified for YOUR Site in Application:

Physical Health Outcomes: active play at a variety of challenge levels

Equity Outcomes: inclusive of all abilities, ages, races, and identities



Based on your community's needs, we recommend the following National Demonstration Site design best practices to address the community vitality goals identified for your site.



PlayOn! Designs Encourage More Physical Activity and Enables Children to Learn New Motor Skills

Each additional play element can result in 50% more physical activity.⁵ Moreover, exposure to playgrounds can lead to over a 40% improvement in motor skill competencies.⁶



Inclusive Designs Provides Places to Play & Recreate for All Ages and Abilities – Improving Social & Mental Health

Inclusive play spaces that fosters multigenerational interactions across all ages and abilities can support children's independent mobility and individual social and creative skills.⁷



NatureGround Designs Create Opportunities to Improve Mood & Social Development through Nature Interactions

Natural playgrounds supports children's cognitive, physical, social and emotional development.¹⁰ Natural features facilitate group play, communication, and collaboration.¹¹



Outdoor Fitness Designs Serve as Publicly Accessible Physical Activity Spaces Which Can Increase Visit Frequency

Fitness in park settings increases recognition of parks as settings for physical activity.⁸ Park users moderate to vigorous physical activity can increase up to 40% after an outdoor fitness install.⁹



Pathways for Play Designs Educate Visitors about their Community Leading to Stronger Community Connections.

Trail users express stronger place attachment & community connectedness.¹² Literary trails contribute to an understanding of the outdoor space and connects its heritage to a larger idea of the community.¹³



By organizing NDS designations around your site's Community Vitality goals, you become equipped to turn research into practice to tell the unique story of your site's impact.

REFERENCES

- ¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2020). Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey. Available at cdc.gov/BRFSS.
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- ³U.S. Census Bureau (2021). *American community survey, Selected population profile in the United States, S0201*. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/table?q=S0201>
- ⁴U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2021). *Smart location mapping: Interactive maps and data for measuring location efficiency and the built environment*. Retrieved from <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-location-mapping>.
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- ⁷Tortella, P., Haga, M., Loras, H., Sigmundsson, H., & Fumagalli, G. (2016). Motor skill development in Italian pre-school children induced by structured activities in a specific playground. *PloS one*, 11(7), e0160244.
- ⁸Sibson, R., Scherrer, P., & Ryan, M. M. (2018). 'I think it adds value, but I don't use it': use, perceptions and attitudes of outdoor exercise equipment in an urban public park. *Annals of Leisure Research*, 21(1), 58-73.
- ⁹Cranney, L., Phongsavan, P., Kariuki, M., Stride, V., Scott, A., Hua, M., & Bauman, A. (2016). Impact of an outdoor gym on park users' physical activity: A natural experiment. *Health & Place*, 37, 26-34.
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- ¹²Moore, R. L., & Scott, D. (2003). Place attachment and context: Comparing a park and a trail within. *Forest Science*, 49(6), 877-884.
- ¹³Saretzki, A. (2013). Literary trails, urban space and the actualization of heritage. *Almatourism –Journal of Tourism, Culture and Territorial Development*, 4(8), 61-77.

CORE | DATA SERVICE LAB

PlayCore established the Center for Outreach, Research, and Education (CORE) to help communities turn research into practice by researching and advocating for the impact of play and recreation on a community's vitality and why it's valuable to invest in community health and wellness.

CORE Data Service Lab uses data-driven strategies specific to your community to enable actionable recommendations and personalized support, maximizing your positive impacts on your community.

For general information on the National Demonstration Site program, go to www.playcore.com/nds.

For access to your National Demonstration Site online portal, go to app.coredataservicelab.com.

For further assistance, please email support@coredataservicelab.com.