



**Advisory Committee on People with
Disabilities Joint Meeting with Parks &
Recreation Board Agenda**

Thursday, August 13, 2026
6:00 PM

**BRiCk Meeting Room - 550 NW
Summercrest Boulevard
Burleson, TX 76028**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **CITIZEN APPEARANCES**

Each person in attendance who desires to speak to the Committee on an item NOT posted on the agenda, shall speak during this section. A speaker card must be filled out and turned in to the City Secretary prior to addressing the Committee. Each speaker will be allowed three minutes to speak.

Each person in attendance who desires to speak on an item posted on the agenda shall speak when the item is called forward for consideration.

3. **GENERAL**

4. **REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

A. Receive a report and hold a discussion related to recreation programming for inclusivity and accessibility provided by the city's Parks and Recreation Department. *(Staff Contact: Allison Smith, Deputy Director of Recreation)*

5. **REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND REPORTS**

6. **ADJOURN**

CHERYL MARTHILJOHNI

Human Resources

Director of Human Resources/ADA Coordinator

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Phone: (817) 426-9641

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the above agenda was posted on this the 6th of August 2026, by 5:00 p.m., on the official bulletin board at the Burleson City Hall, 141 W. Renfro, Burleson, Texas.

Amanda Campos
City Secretary



ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

The Burleson Recreation Center is wheelchair accessible. The entry ramp is located at the front of the building. Accessible parking spaces are available in parking lot, located just North of the front entrance. Sign interpretative services for meetings must be made 48 hours in advance of the meeting. Call the A.D.A. Coordinator at 817-426-9600, or TDD 1-800-735-2989.

Parks & Recreation Board

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation
FROM: Allison Smith, Deputy Director of Recreation
MEETING: August 13, 2026

SUBJECT:

Receive a report on current inclusive and accessible recreation programming efforts, review recommendations developed through the Special Needs Cohort, gather stakeholder feedback, and discuss priorities and next steps for advancing recreation opportunities for individuals with disabilities and special needs in Burleson.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AND GOAL(S):

Strategic Priority	Strategic Goal
 Great Place to Live Through Expanded Quality of Life Amenities	4.2 Provide high-quality recreation opportunities, events and facilities for residents 4.3 Provide outstanding cultural, educational and entertainment opportunities

SUMMARY:

The Parks and Recreation Department will provide an update on current inclusive and accessible recreation programming efforts and facilitate a joint work session with the Park Board, People with Disabilities Committee, and Special Needs Cohort to discuss future opportunities for individuals with disabilities and special needs.

The department currently offers a variety of inclusive programs, accommodations, and sensory-conscious opportunities designed to reduce participation barriers and create welcoming recreation experiences for all residents. Existing efforts include a designated Special Needs Egg Hunt at Bunny Daze, sensory-friendly accommodations at Boo Bash, sensory hours at the Splash Pad and Honey Tour Carnival, Sensory-Friendly Family Nights at the BRiCK, Programs for Individuals with Different Abilities, partnerships with the Center for ASD, and a weekly partnership with Burleson ISD Adult Transition students at Russell Farm. Recent enhancements implemented in direct response to community feedback include the addition of Sensory Time at

the Aqua Egg Hunt, expanded sensory-friendly event accommodations, and increased communication regarding accessibility resources and event accommodations.

To further advance inclusive recreation opportunities, the department established a Special Needs Cohort consisting of representatives from Parks and Recreation, Burleson ISD, the Center for ASD, the People with Disabilities Committee, Human Resources, and community partners. The cohort was created to identify service gaps, strengthen collaboration, improve communication, and develop recommendations that support accessible and unified recreation opportunities throughout the community. Through a series of meetings, the cohort identified several focus areas for future consideration, including fitness and wellness opportunities, unified programming and athletics, sensory-friendly events, communication and outreach, accessibility improvements, transportation considerations, and expanded opportunities at Russell Farm Art Center.

The August 13 work session is intended to gather stakeholder feedback, identify implementation priorities, and develop a shared roadmap for advancing inclusive recreation opportunities in Burleson. Discussion topics will include current programs and accommodations, recommendations developed through the Special Needs Cohort, opportunities to increase unified participation, accessibility enhancements, communication strategies, and future program development. Feedback received during the work session will be used to refine recommendations and establish short-, mid-, and long-term priorities for future consideration by City Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

Park Board – April 16, 2026 (Inclusive and Accessible Programming Update)
Special Needs Cohort Work Session – April 23, 2026
People with Disabilities Committee Meeting – May 27, 2026

REFERENCE:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

Proposed Expenditure/Revenue:
Account Number(s):
Fund:
Account Description:
Procurement Method:

STAFF CONTACT:

Allison Smith
Deputy Director of Recreation

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817-426-9629

BURLESON

INCLUSIVE & ACCESSIBLE PROGRAMMING – WORK SESSION

JOINT WORK SESSION – AUGUST 13, 2026
PARK BOARD | PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES COMMITTEE | SPECIAL NEEDS COHORT
ALLISON SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF RECREATION

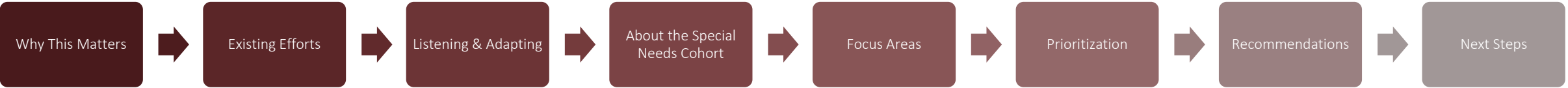
Purpose of Tonight's Discussion

Objectives

- Review current inclusive and accessible recreation efforts
- Share recommendations developed through the Special Needs Cohort
- Identify priorities for future implementation
- Gather feedback from community stakeholders
- Develop recommendations for City Council

Desired Outcome

A shared roadmap for advancing inclusive recreation opportunities in Burleson.



Introductions & Goals

Recreation Should Be For Everyone

Who is at the table:

- Park Board
- People with Disabilities Committee
- Special Needs Cohort
- Burleson Parks and Recreation

Our goals are to:

- Reduce participation barriers
- Improve accessibility and awareness
- Increase community belonging
- Support individuals of all abilities
- Create opportunities for unified participation

Discussion Question

What does success look like for Burleson in five years?

Current Programs & Accommodations

Existing Efforts

- ✓ Special Needs Egg Hunt
- ✓ Sensory-Friendly Boo Bash Accommodations
- ✓ Center for ASD Partnerships
- ✓ Sensory Hours at Splash Pad
- ✓ Programs for Individuals with Different Abilities
- ✓ Sensory-Friendly Family Nights
- ✓ Adult Transition Program Partnership
- ✓ Sensory Aqua Egg Hunt
- ✓ Sensory-Friendly Carnival Hours

Discussion Question

Which current efforts have had the greatest impact?

Listening & Adapting

Changes Made Based on Community Feedback

- Sensory Time added to Aqua Egg Hunt
- Sensory-Friendly Carnival Hours
- Increased communication about accommodations
- Improved accessibility messaging

Guiding Principle

Listen → Adapt → Improve



Special Needs Cohort



Purpose

The cohort was established to:

- Align community partners
- Identify service gaps
- Explore collaboration opportunities
- Improve communication
- Advance accessible recreation



Current Partners

- Parks & Recreation
- Center for ASD
- BISD Special Education
- People with Disabilities Committee Member
- Human Resources
- Community Organizations

Terminology

Moving Toward Unified Recreation

The cohort emphasized:

Prefer use of the term "Unified" over "Inclusive"

Whenever possible, create opportunities for individuals of all abilities to participate together.

WORDS HAVE POWER

Discussion Questions

What does "Unified Recreation" look like in Burleson?

Is there other terminology we should discuss?

Focus Area 1: BRiCk (Fitness & Wellness)

Recommendations

- Accessibility anchor charts
- Equipment accessibility guide
- Staff assistance promotion
- Fitness floor orientation
- Adaptive group fitness classes
- Fit at the BRiCk partnership
- Staff Training Partnerships

Discussion

Which of these initiatives should be prioritized first?

How can we create adaptive fitness opportunities that are inclusive and meaningful while recognizing that no single program may meet the needs of every individual?

Focus Area 2: Programming

Opportunities

- Unified Adult Basketball League
- Summer Camp Accommodations
- Partner with Special Olympics
- Unified Teen Movie Night
- Buddy Volunteer Program



Discussion

Which opportunities appear most achievable in the next 12 months?

Focus Area 3: Events

Recommendations

- Adult Adaptive Aqua Egg Hunt
- Expanded sensory hours
- Sensory and cool-down spaces
- Improved accommodation communication
- Earlier Bunny Daze adaptive hunt timeslot

Discussion

What accommodations should become standard practice at all city events?

Focus Area 4: Russell Farm Art Center

Opportunities

- Sensory-Friendly Fall Fest
- Sensory-Friendly Santa Experience
- Art Therapy Programs
- Parent Support Workshops
- Sensory-Friendly Farm Fun



Discussion

Russell Farm has known physical accessibility limitations. What opportunities exist to create meaningful and inclusive experiences for individuals with disabilities despite those challenges?

Focus Area 5: Communication & Outreach

Recommendations

- Dedicated Special Needs webpage
- Email notification list
- Enhanced promotion through BISD and Center for ASD partners
- Presence at BISD Special Needs Expo

Discussion

What communication barriers currently exist?

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BURLESON
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Prioritization Exercise

Activity

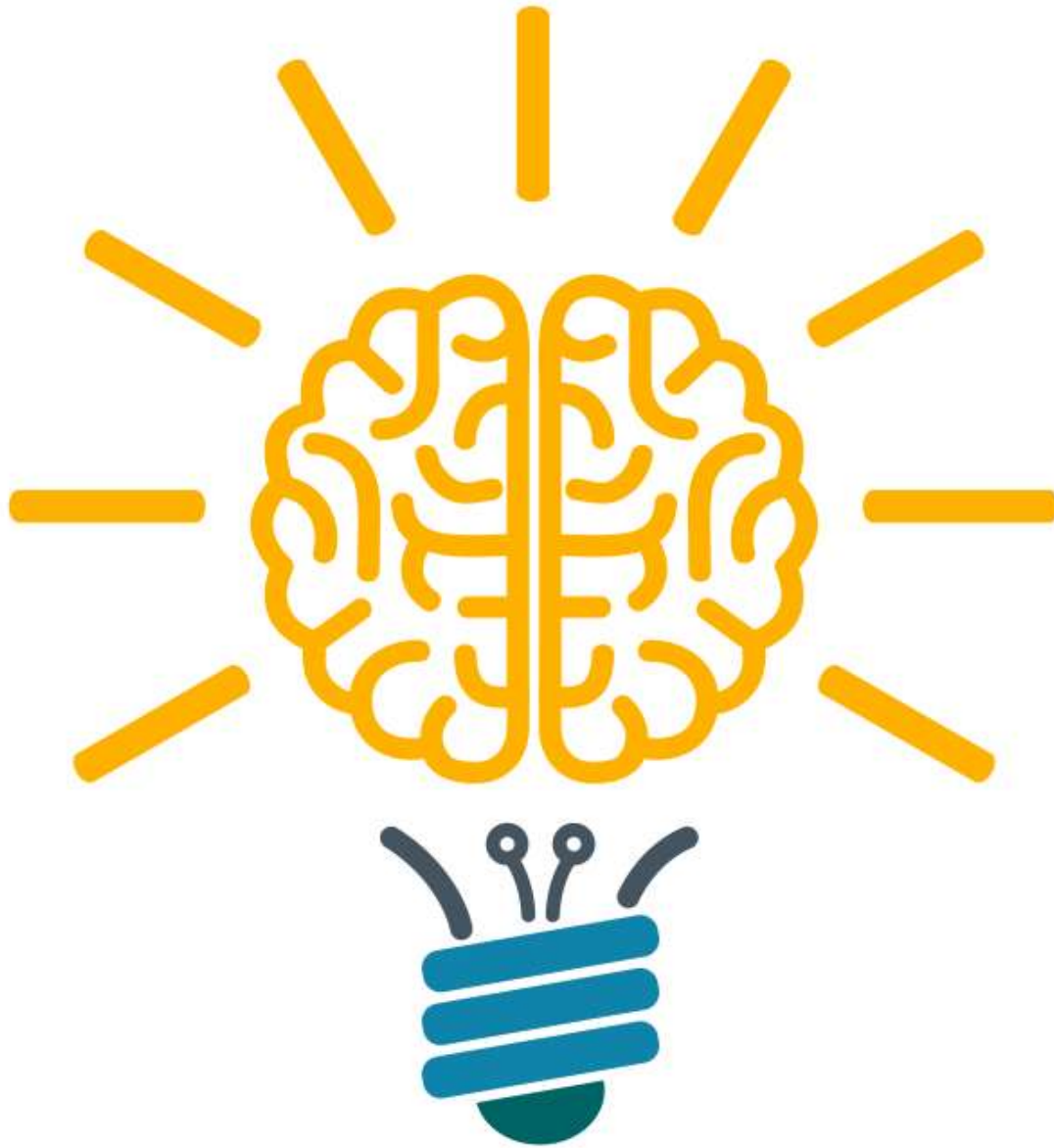
Each participant receives:

- 2 Priority votes in each category
- Vote for the initiatives you believe should be implemented first.

Evaluation Criteria

- Community Impact
- Cost
- Ease of Implementation
- Sustainability
- Number of People Served

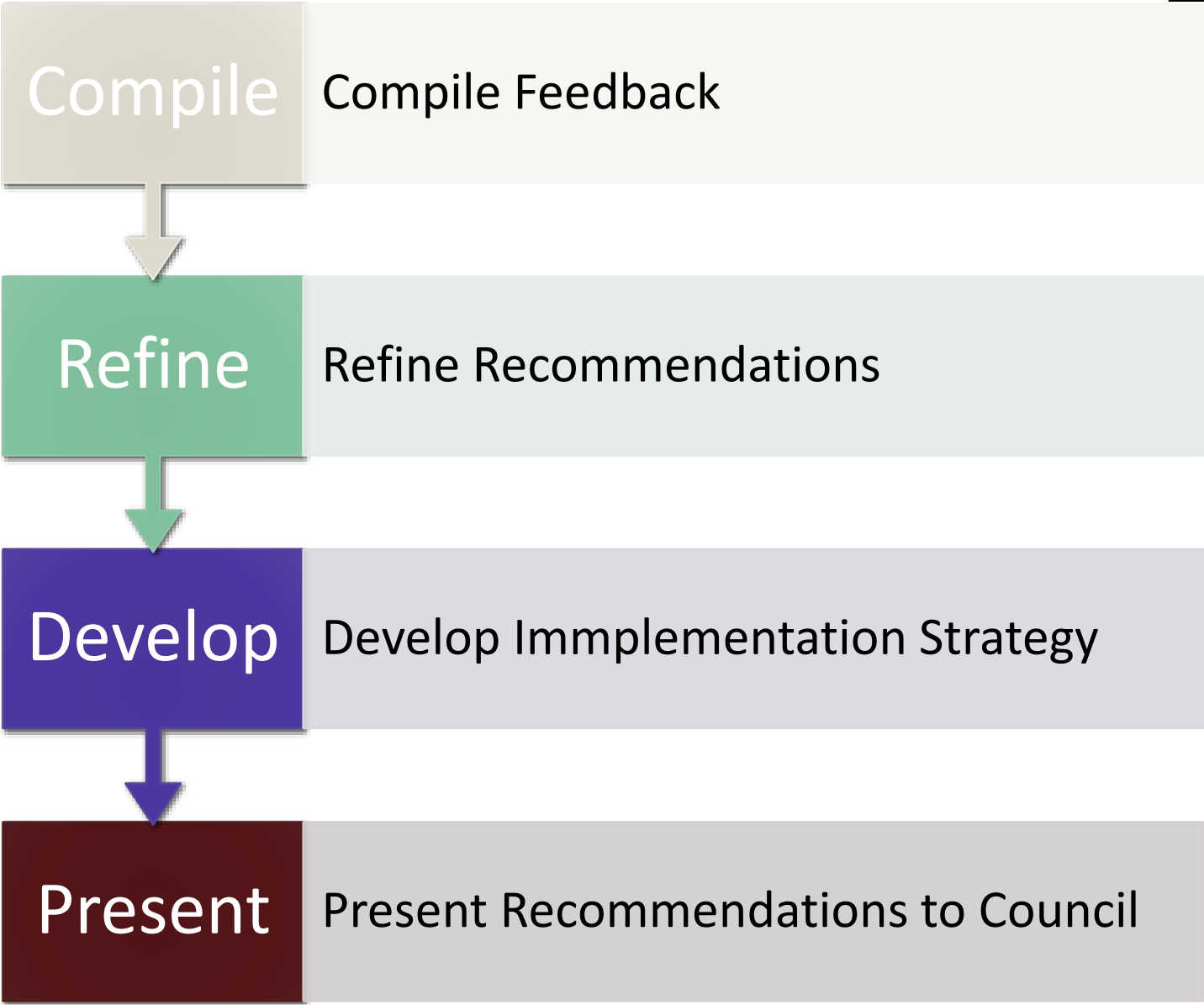




Top Priorities Discussion

1. What rose to the top?
2. Are any priorities missing?
3. What partnerships are needed?
4. What barriers should be addressed?

Next Steps





Item A.

THANK YOU
