



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

Thursday, June 18, 2026
6:00 PM

City Hall Annex Conference
Room - 135 W Ellison St
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 11th of June 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 City Hall Annex is wheelchair accessible. The entry ramp is located in the front of the building, accessible from Warren St. Accessible parking spaces are also available in the Warren St. parking lot. 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.


Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation
FROM: Allison Smith, Deputy Director of Recreation
MEETING: June 18, 2026

SUBJECT:

Receive a report on the Recreation Department's efforts and initiatives to support inclusive and accessible programming and events for individuals with disabilities and special needs, including next steps for continued improvement. *(Staff Contact: Allison Smith, Deputy Director of Recreation)*

STRATEGIC PRIORITY AND GOAL(S):

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

SUMMARY:

The Parks and Recreation Department will provide a comprehensive update on current efforts and initiatives designed to support inclusive and accessible programming for individuals with disabilities and special needs. The report outlines existing programs and event accommodations, including designated special needs programming at community events, sensory-friendly activities, respite spaces, adaptive recreation programs, and partnerships that support individuals with different abilities.

Ongoing and recently implemented offerings include a designated special needs egg hunt at Bunny Daze, a respite area at Boo Bash, sensory hours at the Splash Pad, sensory-friendly family nights at the BRiCk, programs for individuals with different abilities, and weekly partnerships with Burleson ISD Adult Transition students at Russell Farm. Also, the recent addition of a Sensory Time at the Aqua Egg Hunt, which was implemented in direct response to community feedback.

Within the past year, the Recreation team has implemented a Special Needs Cohort, a collaborative group formed to bring together key organizations, departments, and advocates to align on goals, identify gaps, and explore opportunities for collaboration related to inclusive and accessible city programming. The cohort includes representatives from the Burleson Recreation Department, Burleson ISD, the Center for ASD, and other community partners, with invitations extended to local youth sports organizations.

The group has met on October 28, 2025, March 5, 2026, and April 23, 2026. During these meetings, participants worked to build a shared understanding of the populations being served, identify opportunities for immediate collaboration, explore methods for gathering community input, and discuss strategies to improve communication and outreach so families and individuals are aware of available programs, services, and recreational opportunities. The April 23 meeting included a focused review of Recreation Department programs, facilities, events, and services through the lens of accessibility and inclusion.

Following the April 23 meeting, staff introduced the Special Needs Cohort initiative and its ongoing efforts to the Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities (ADA Committee) on May 27, 2026. The presentation provided an overview of the cohort's purpose, participating organizations, discussion topics, and preliminary findings as the department continues evaluating opportunities to improve accessibility and inclusion across parks, programs, events, and facilities.

The next step in the process is a joint discussion bringing together representatives from the Special Needs Cohort, the Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and Parks and Recreation staff. This meeting will provide an opportunity to review findings, discuss identified barriers and service gaps, explore potential solutions and partnerships, and develop a shared understanding of priorities moving forward. Feedback from this collaborative discussion will help inform future recommendations related to accessibility, inclusion, programming, facilities, and services throughout the Parks and Recreation system.

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

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

N/A

REFERENCE:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

Proposed Expenditure/Revenue:

Account Number(s):

Fund:

burlesontx.com | 817.426.9611 | 141 W Renfro Street, Burleson, Texas 76028

Account Description:
Procurement Method:

STAFF CONTACT:

Allison Smith
Deputy Director of Recreation
asmith@burlesontx.com
817-426-9629

BURLESON

INCLUSIVE & ACCESSIBLE PROGRAMMING – WORK SESSION

JOINT WORK SESSION – JUNE 18, 2026

PARK BOARD | PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES COMMITTEE | SPECIAL NEEDS COHORT

ALLISON SMITH, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF RECREATION

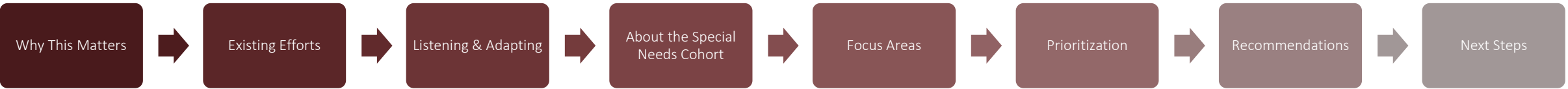
Purpose of Tonight's Discussion

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

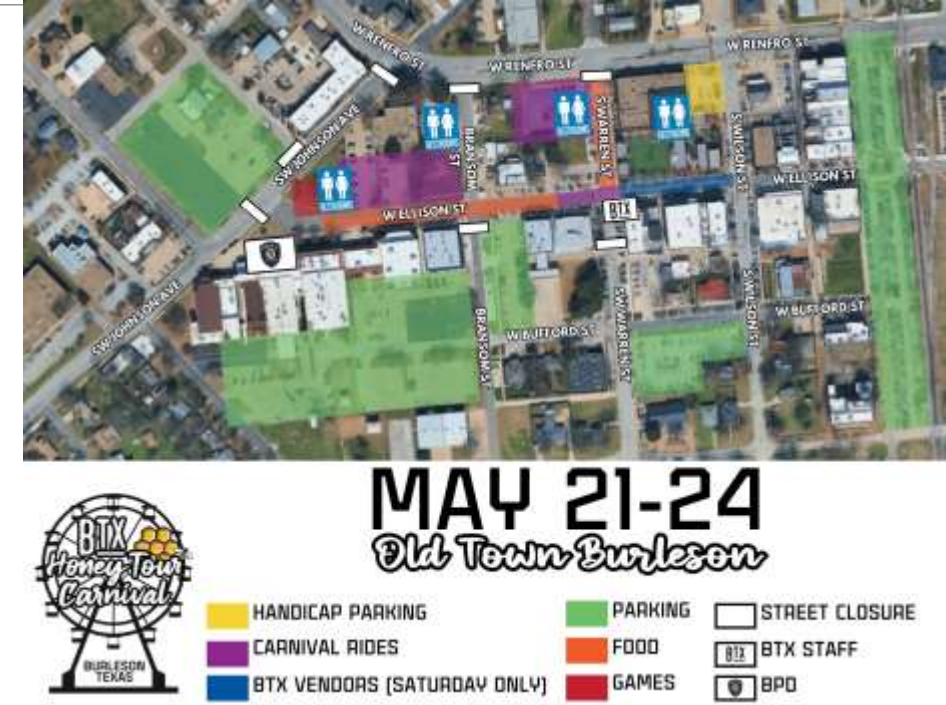
Discussion

What communication barriers currently exist?

Focus Area 6: Accessibility, Parking, & Transportation

Recommendations

- Better handicap parking visibility
- Event transportation/shuttle opportunities
- Centennial Park sidewalk connection
- Improved accessibility communication



Discussion

What physical accessibility improvements should be prioritized?

Prioritization Exercise

Activity

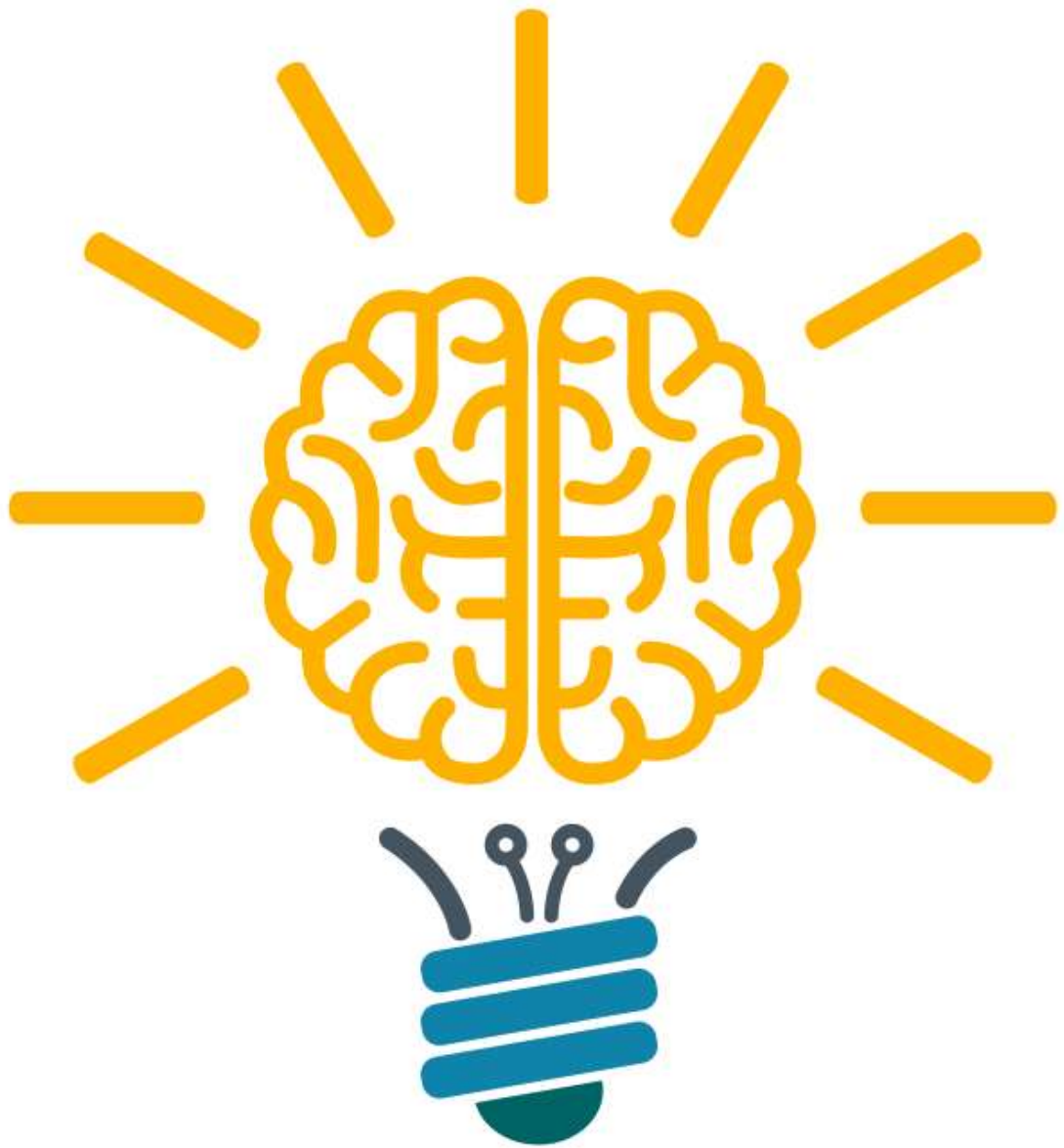
Each participant receives:

- 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

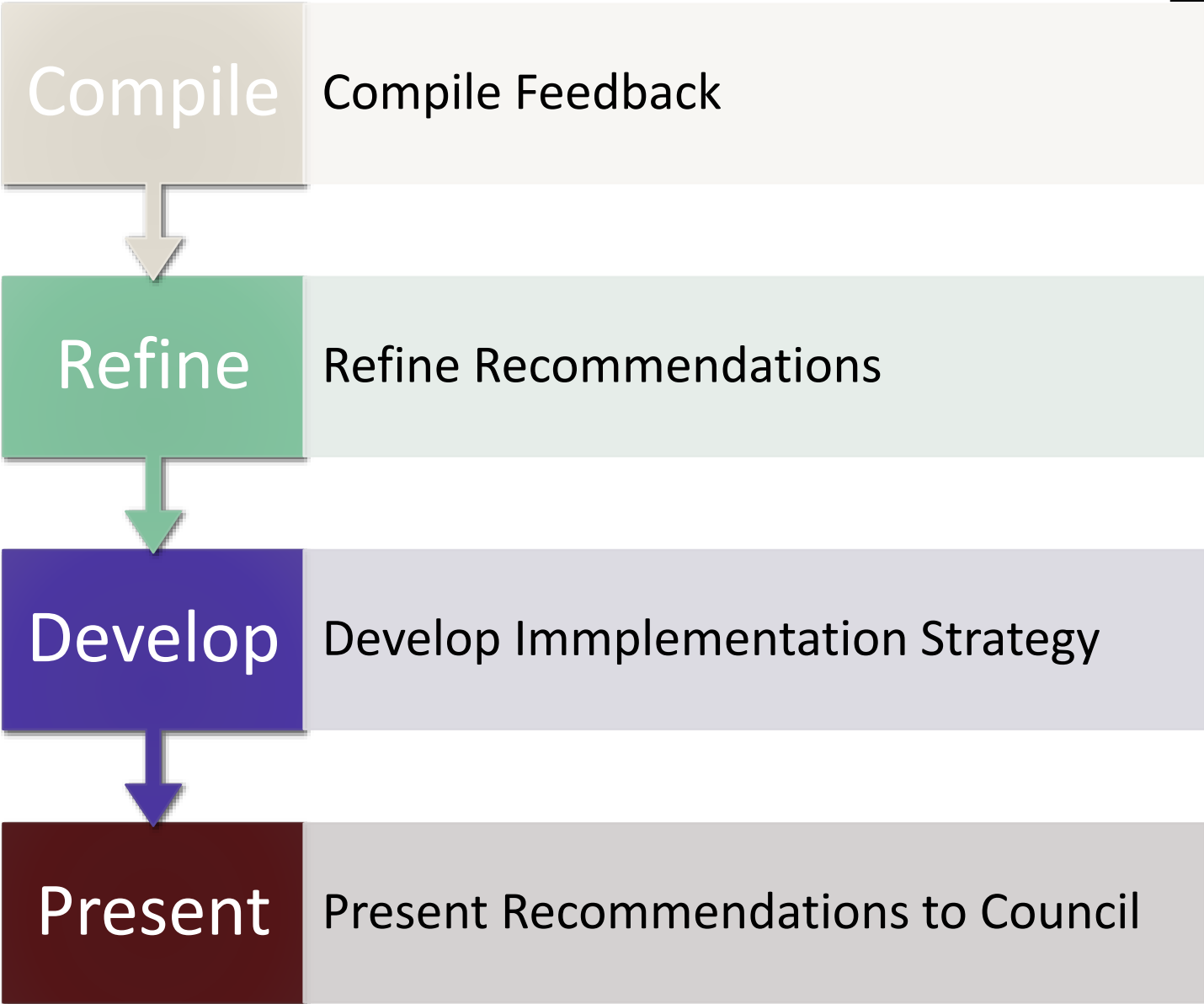




Top Priorities Discussion

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

Next Steps





THANK YOU
