

THIS UNDEVELOPED AREA in the new Krenek Tap Park, top right, shows the availability of shade trees and dry, level areas that are ideal for picnic grounds. Bottom right, this walkway was built to span a creek that runs through the middle of the heavily wooded Oaks Park. Below, this lake, with the addition of fishing piers planned for Krenek Tap Park, should provide some action-filled recreational fishing for area residents.



the need for proper irrigation systems, for more practice areas to supplement the playing areas. "We need more backstops, more level ground to practice on," he says.

Even with this basic approach, there are two parks in which Beachey is particularly interested, and it is not hard to see why. One is Krenek Tap Park, located in the south part of College Station. Over \$400,000 of the total \$1.8 million is being spent on this site, which contains about 50 acres.

"There will be four lighted fields, for softball and flag football, and three soccer fields for league competition," he said.

The other is Oaks Park, located off Highway 30. Already a shelter and walkway have been constructed in preparation for the First Annual College Station Crafts Festival, which will bring both local and distant artists, craftsmen, entertainers and visitors to the city for a day of festivities on April 28.

"We are contacting art galleries in Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and other large cities, not just local residents," Beachey said. They are placing ads in statewide publications such as Texas Monthly. Obviously, this will be no small-time effort.

Perhaps that is the key word: effort. Even the schedule of athletic activities associated with the parks has increased in the last few years. Not only has the parks department expended much effort in providing for these programs, but so have residents, whose participation is so vital to making the programs work. This year, Beachey said, they expect over 64 teams to compete in the adult softball program, and the youth soccer league will expand to include about 850 youngsters. And there are still other activities like basketball, football and volleyball for all age groups.

However, much of the spice in the upcoming schedule comes from the special events planned for the rest of the year. There will be a kite flying contest in March, a tennis tournament in June, a fourth of July celebration, a swimmers meet, a dog show and a Halloween carnival.

So there you are. You live in a city with an expanding, progressive parks and recreation program that shows no signs of slowing down, both in quantity and quality. The opportunities are there, just waiting to be used.

Or if you choose, come spring, you may ignore all the facilities, find a nice soft spot of grass and simply lie in the shade and daydream.

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