

Take advantage of all that Magee's green spaces have to offer

Now that spring is almost here, it's time to get outside and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine by engaging in outdoor activities like walking, running, tennis and of course, youth sports. We are fortunate to live in a city that affords residents of all ages the opportunity to enjoy these activities in several designated areas that are well-maintained and monitored by Magee Parks and Recreation Department and members of the city's police force.

My colleagues on the City Council and I have spent many hours this year in meetings devoted to the goals we have for the city. One of the most important goals is continually upgrading our green spaces, walking trails, city parks and the 40-acre Magee Sportsplex for the improved health and well-being of all residents and for future generations.

Now, more than ever, spring and summer in the city are filled with outdoor fun. Parents looking for healthy and entertaining activities for their children and for family outings can find all they need right here in Magee.

First, the Magee City Park is located near downtown between the railroad tracks and Highway 49. Children can play on the secure playground equipment as parents walk on the paved walking trail, play tennis at one of six lighted tennis courts or relax under the shady oak trees. Additionally, the complex contains three lighted baseball fields and a shaded picnic area for family meals and special events.

A new walking trail has been constructed next to the former YMCA on Fifth Avenue. The track is open to the public and has already proven to

be a great place for adults and children to exercise and enjoy being outdoors.

Just across Highway 49 is a beautiful area that draws visitors from around the state, McNair Springs Park. A natural spring flows through the park, which also includes a nature trail, two lighted baseball and softball fields and covered pavilion surrounded by spacious grounds. The park is an ideal location for families to enjoy quality time outdoors.

And of course, one of Magee's crown jewels is our Sportsplex. Located on Industrial Park Drive, the Sportsplex is located on 40 acres and includes 10 fields - 8 youth baseball and softball fields, plus a high school baseball field and a regulation size football and soccer field.

Each year, our summer tournaments draw crowds from around the southeast, but I'd like to remind everyone that the Sportsplex is open to the public at all times. Children can utilize the playground and family gatherings can be held under the large covered pavilion. Additionally, 12 different pieces of outdoor exercise equipment, including a rowing machine, air strider, cross trainer, a combo leg-press and a combo press and pull are available for use. There is a paved sidewalk that doubles as a walking trail, so don't forget about this beautiful open green space when you're ready to get outside and exercise.

The spring, the city is seeking to provide residents with their own personal patch of land through the development of a Community Garden in the Ural Everett Park in downtown Magee.

Wooden raised beds are being constructed to allow those with a green thumb - as well as those who want to learn - to grow their own vegetables in a safe, secure area. The garden will be available to

residents, including children under the supervision of parents, who wish to plant, water and ultimately, harvest the fruits of their labors. Plans are to construct fences and additional lighting to keep the area secure.

Our Parks and Recreation Department has been working diligently to ready our parks and playgrounds for the summer, and we're already off to a great start. The parks look great and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the workers who line the fields, plant flowers, cut the grass, monitor the areas for safety and continue to make improvements to make our facilities more accessible and secure.

To keep our parks and green spaces a healthy place for children and families to exercise and engage in sports, let's remember to refrain from using any type of tobacco products, including cigarettes, e-cigarettes and smokeless tobacco while enjoying these areas. The city of Magee is a smoke-free city, and this includes not only public buildings, but city property as well.

If you have an opportunity, please explore all that Magee's parks and green spaces have to offer. They are the perfect place to relax, exercise and enjoy sporting events with your family and friends. I hope you and your family has a wonderful spring and summer as you enjoy our wonderful city.