



# Auditorium Shores Improvements

## Parks and Recreation Board

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December 10, 2013



# Auditorium Shores

## Existing Conditions



# Background



- Development of Butler Park and Auditorium Shores has been an ongoing effort since the completion of the original park master plan in 1999
- Phases I and II of the project, completed between 1999 and 2007, were focused upon parkland south of Riverside Drive
- The need for improvements on Auditorium Shores was identified through public engagement conducted between October 2011 and July 2012
- Goal to provide balance of park use while correcting existing safety concerns
- The team of PARD and APF are collaborating on improvements to Auditorium Shores with a scope of work estimated at \$3,500,000



2011 Master Plan  
Concept Sketch



# Ordinance No. 20130606-026



**An ordinance amending city code Chapter 3-4 of the City Code relating to off-leash dog areas to move the portion available at Auditorium Shores.  
Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Austin:**

**Part 1.** The Council finds that:

- 1) Improvements are needed at Auditorium Shores to prevent further deterioration of the event lawn; to restore balance of park users; and to reduce trail/dog conflict of use.
- 2) Construction of the improvements will yield an improved off-leash area available for year-round public access; a sustainable landscape for all park users; and a better connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists.
- 3) At such time as these improvements are undertaken the areas available for these uses will need to be moved to achieve park purposes.

**Part 2.** Section 3-4-4 (*Public Areas Where Restraint of a Dog Is Not Required*) of the City Code is amended to read:

An owner or handler may allow a dog to be without restraint as otherwise required by this title in the following places:

- 1) The portion of Auditorium Shores that is designated by City signs clearly stating the area that is off-leash

# Prior City Council Action



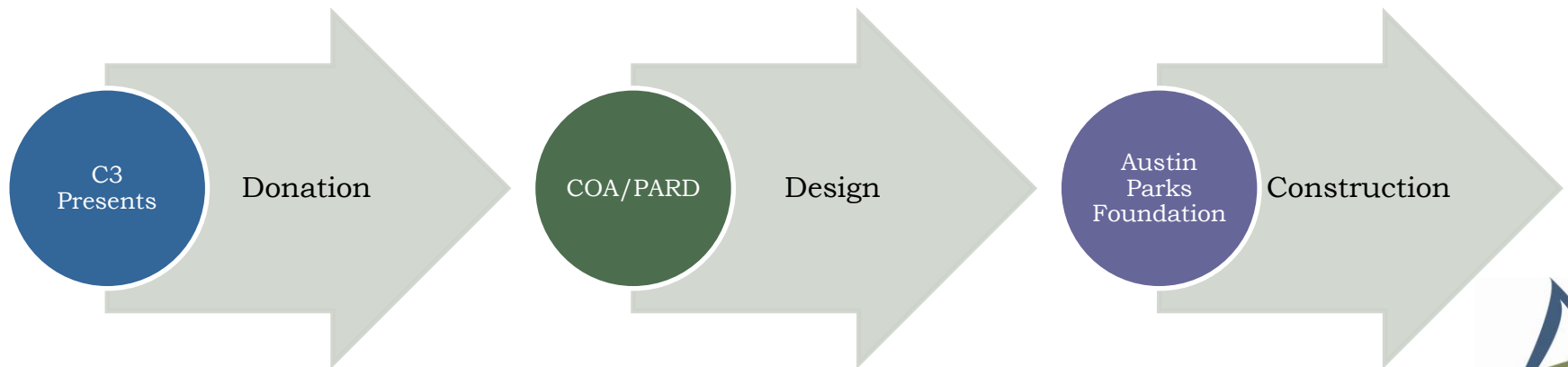
- 06/06/13 – City Council approved an ordinance amending chapter 3-4 of the City Code relating to off-leash dog areas to move the portion available at Auditorium Shores. **Ordinance No. 20130606-026**
- 06/06/13 – City Council approved an ordinance authorizing a Parkland Improvement Agreement with the Austin Parks Foundation and C3 Presents, L.L.C. to make Town Lake Metropolitan Park Improvements; and amending the PARD Capital Budget (Ordinance No 20120910-002) to accept, transfer and appropriate funds for the Auditorium Shores Improvements project: **Ordinance No. 20130606-025**
- 06/06/13 – City Council authorized negotiation and execution of an amendment to the professional services agreement with TBG for architectural and engineering services for the Auditorium Shores Improvement project in an amount of \$400,000

# Parkland Improvement Agreement

## Payment Methodology



- The City appropriates \$3.5M as an FY13 PARD-CIP budget amendment
- C3 Presents donates \$3.5M via annualized donation to the City over a 5-year period
- COA Project Team provides oversight during construction



# Balance of Use



Park Users	The Gain	The Give
Daily Park User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$3.5M investment for Auditorium Shores</li> <li>• Restore balance</li> <li>• Sustainable Landscape</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary park closure during construction</li> <li>• Loss of 4.7 acre space designated for off-leash</li> </ul>
Dog Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$1.1M investment for State-Of-The-Art Off-leash Area</li> <li>• 365 day access</li> <li>• Dedicated shoreline access</li> <li>• Reduced trail/dog conflict of use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-leash activities on the middle lawn</li> <li>• No access to the event lawn</li> </ul>
Event Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High durability, high traffic turfgrass</li> <li>• Enhanced irrigation to provide dust suppression</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary relocation of events</li> <li>• Loss of 4.7 acre space designated for off-leash</li> </ul>
Trail Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail remains open with re-routes</li> <li>• Better connectivity</li> <li>• Reduced trail/dog conflict of use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slight reduction of shoreline experience</li> <li>• Trail detour during construction</li> </ul>

# Auditorium Shores Improvements

## Public Engagement

- The public engagement process for Auditorium Shores has been ongoing since 2009; this collaboration prompted a new series of public meetings as outlined below:
  - Public Meeting #1 - 07/10/13
  - Public Meeting #2 - 09/28/13
  - Public Meeting #3 - 10/08/13
- Comments and results of the Public Meetings are posted to project website:
  - <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/auditorium-shores-improvements>





# Off-leash Area

## Research and Findings

- Downtown dog off-leash areas (OLA) in major cities (Boston, Minneapolis, Portland) tend to be less than 1 acre, if a dedicated OLA is established
- Other trends for downtown dog parks:
  - ❑ 'Dog Runs' – long, linear run parks
  - ❑ 'Dog Hours' – dogs allowed in public parks during pre-determined times
  - ❑ Most cities with downtown dog parks require registration/usage fees, shots or a permit for public access to the OLA
  - ❑ Limited or no water access
  - ❑ Limited or no dedicated parking



### OVERALL

In our research, successful dog parks:

- Are between 1 and 4 Acres
- Include water for play
- Tend to be better maintained with a park fee
- In an urban context, tend to include multiple amenities

### PARK ELEMENTS

In our research, the major elements of successful dog parks are:

- (Real) Grass / Turf
- Shade
- Seating
- Water for Play
- Drinking Water
- Walking Paths
- Amenities (i.e. agility equipment, waste receptacles, etc.)



# Off-leash Area – Initial Design





# Off-leash Area – Modified Design





# Off-leash Area

## Initial vs. Modified

Amenities	Initial [September 2013]	Modified [November 2013]
Total Acres	3.25 acres	4.7 acres
Open Run Area	525 linear feet of unobstructed, open run area	876 linear feet of unobstructed, open run area
Water Access	230 linear feet of water access	195 linear feet of water access

- What changed?
  - ❑ Added 1.45 acres off-leash zone
  - ❑ Added 350 linear feet of unobstructed, open run area
  - ❑ Removed concrete ramp at West Bouldin Creek due to water quality concerns; added concrete ramps to cantilever deck
  - ❑ Minimized hardscape and removal of internal concrete walk to provide more open space
  - ❑ Added 10-foot wide granite gravel trail full length of Auditorium Shores parallel to Riverside Dr.





# Shared Lawn Use



# Impact

- Final project design & permitting to complete February 2014
- Adjusted construction schedule to modify design based on public feedback
- 1<sup>st</sup> phase of construction to begin December 2013
- Impact to park users:
  - Construction impact will result in a 1-year temporary closure of Auditorium Shores
  - Ann and Roy Butler Hike & Bike Trail will remain open during construction with detours
  - Potential changes to rules governing off-leash area





# Next Steps



- 12/12/13 – City Council review and approval of final design
- Jan 2014 – Planning Commission [Site Plan for OLA]
- Jan 2014 – Waterfront Advisory Board [Site Plan for OLA]
- Apr 2014 – Start of construction on off-leash area
- Mar 2015 – Park re-opening



