



FY2016 PARD Block Funding

Open Space, Environment, and Sustainability Committee

Marty Stump, Assistant Director

Kimberly McNeeley, Assistant Director

City of Austin, Parks and Recreation Dept.

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Outline



- Project Initiation
- PARD Project Proposal
- PARD Playground Assessment
- Supporting Policy Documents
- Nature Inspired Play Areas – Emerging Best Practices
- Nature Inspired Play Areas – PARD Examples
- Project Selection Criteria
- Prioritized List of Sites





Project Initiation

- FY 2016 Budget Process
- \$1.15M added CIP funding as “Block Grant” for park improvements
- Implementation of this funding to be coordinated with Open Space, Environment, and Sustainability Committee
- PARD Project Proposal provided for consideration



PARD Project Proposal



PARD proposes Block Grant Funding to design and construct innovative nature-inspired play environments at multiple sites as continuation of on-going playscape replacement program

- Playground replacement program was prioritized through the 2012 G.O. Bond Program
- Aging facilities continues to be a primary focus of the overall PARD CIP
- “Block Grant” funding will provided continued forward momentum to address high priority playground replacements
- Prioritized project list provided for consideration





PARD Playground Assessment

- 98 parks with 385 playgrounds
 - Over 1,000 individual play pieces
- Annual assessment of condition
 - District-based analysis
 - Documents critical safety issues
 - Estimates funding needs
 - Priorities implementation
- Basis for coordination of maintenance under General Fund and CIP replacements
- Average full playground replacement project cost range: \$200k - \$300k



PLAYGROUND ASSESSMENTS



03/11/2015

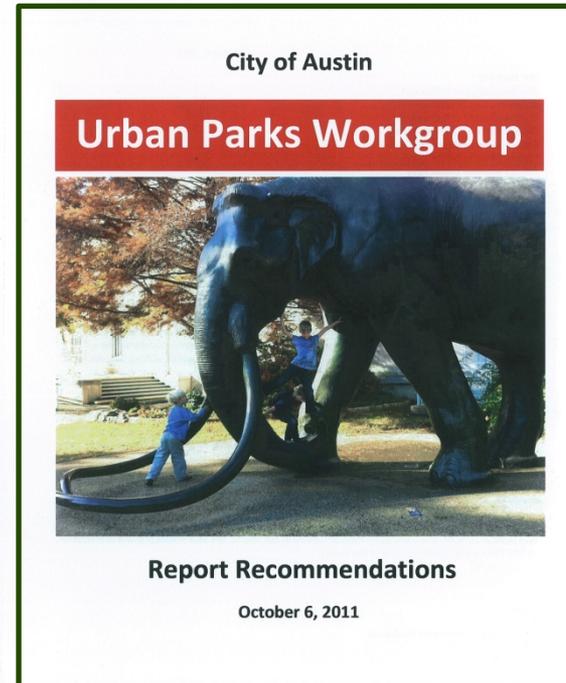
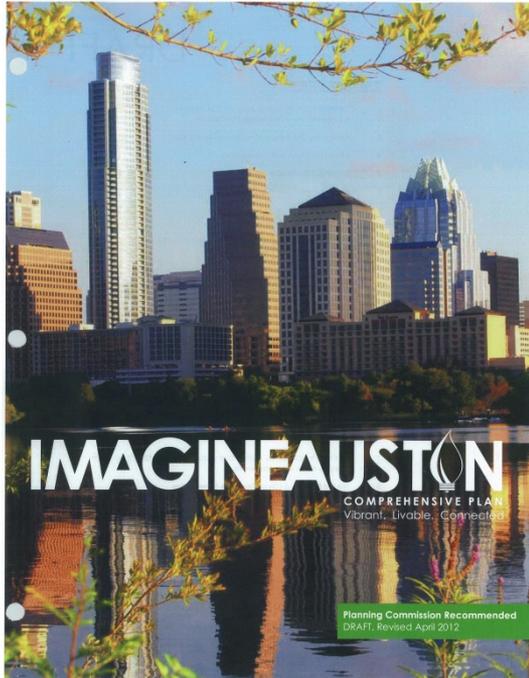
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PLAYGROUNDS



The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for providing the Austin community with safe, fun, accessible, and well-maintained playgrounds. Currently, there are 98 parks that have 358 playgrounds and with over 1,000 individual pieces of play components, some as old as 30 years. As owners, we have not only a responsibility for providing safe play opportunities for our children but, a legal mandate and a moral obligation to make sure hazards are identified, corrected, repaired, and/or mitigated. The purpose of this report is to summarize the conditions of the playgrounds and the challenges we face.



Supporting Policy Documents



- Develop design standards for public buildings and spaces... including green spaces and children-friendly play spaces (CFS A23)
- Create more opportunities for outdoor play, recreational activities, healthy eating, and other activities and programs that address obesity (S A55)
- Establish pocket parks, smaller undeveloped preserves, and passive recreational spaces in areas with little open space (CFS A4)

- Promotes Kinetic Playscapes, Nature Based Play and Mobile Play
- Design strategies can help address the urban issues of obesity, community development, contact with nature, local economic development and ecological diversity
- Strive to meet national benchmark of an accessible park within ¼ mile walking distance in urban areas.



Nature Inspired Play Areas Emerging Best Practices





Nature Inspired Design Recent COA Project Precedents



Ditmar Park



RGG Colorado River Park



Chestnut Park



Dove Springs District Park



Armadillo Park





Nature Inspired Design

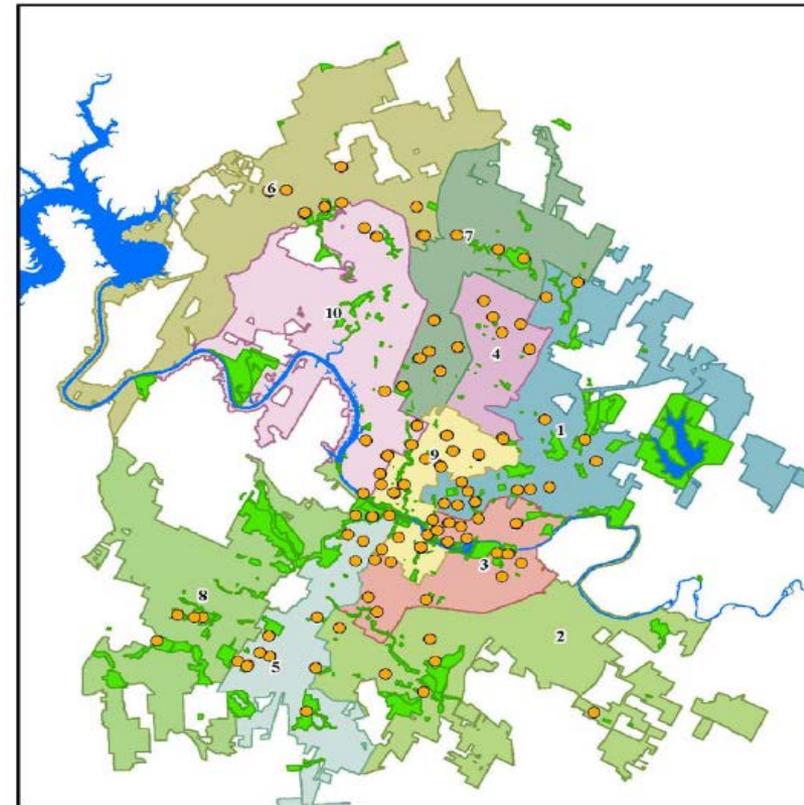
Tom Lasseter Neighborhood Park





Project Selection Criteria

- Safety/Condition
- Accessibility
- Stakeholder Input
- Programming Opportunity
- Play Value
- Site Context
- Place-making Quality
- Funding/Cost
- Leveraging Opportunities
- Permitting Required



PARD:
Playgrounds

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Legend

● PARD Maintained Playgrounds	Single Member Districts
● City of Austin Parks	1
● Lakes	2
	3
	4
	5
	6
	7
	8
	9
	10

AUSTIN PARKS & RECREATION



Candidate Projects

- St Elmo Park (3)
- Odom School Park (2)
- Lucy Read School Park (7)
- M.F.B. Clarksville Pocket Park (9)
- Alamo Pocket Park (1)
- Balcones District Park (7)
- Kealing School Park (1)
- Martin Playground (3)
- Reed Neighborhood Park (10)
- Eastwoods Neighborhood Park (9)
- Parque Zaragosa Neighborhood Park (3)
- Silk Oak Neighborhood Park (5)
- Perry Neighborhood Park (10)
- Mountain View Neighborhood Park (6)
- Piney Bend Neighborhood Park (5)
- Dick Nichols District Park (8)
- Quail Creek Neighborhood Park (4)



Program Specific Funding



- FY 2016 Budget Process
- \$200,000 added to General Fund for “youth programming”
- PARD recommendation provided





Youth Program Funding Recommendation

- Summer Counselor in Training Program/Year Round Leadership Outreach (\$96,000)
- Park Ranger Cadet Program sustainability (\$20,000)
- Camacho Recreation Center Adventure Based Program sustainability (\$84,000)

