



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Planning Commission Members

**FROM:** Kimberly McNeeley, CPRP, Director   
Austin Parks and Recreation Department

**DATE:** September 5, 2019

**SUBJECT:** *Our Parks, Our Future*—Long Range Plan draft

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The Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) will present PAR's 10-year Long Range Plan, *Our Parks, Our Future*, to the Planning Commission for a formal recommendation to City Council at the September 24, 2019, meeting.

The full plan document was released to the public in early August and can be found at this [link](#). Additionally, PAR provided a summary of recommendations through our SpeakUp Austin page ([link](#)) and this has allowed community members to provide direct comments through an interactive PDF. The community input phase has been extended to September 16, 2019.

This memo serves as advanced notification of the Plan's availability for review prior to the September 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. PAR realizes the plan includes a wealth of information and I want to ensure Commissioners have the opportunity to digest the plan ahead of the meeting. The planned presentation to the Commission provides a summary overview and is a valuable opportunity for PAR to receive feedback about the plan recommendations.

Please note that our project web page ([link](#)) also provides links to additional information, reports, and summaries that informed aspects of the draft plan. These include:

- Board and Commission presentation schedule (subject to change)
- Community Engagement Summary (to date) and Full Survey Report
- Statistically Valid Survey Executive Summary and Full Survey Report
- Community Profile and Recreation Trend Report
- Benchmarking Report by Trust for Public Land
- 2010 Long Range Plan

Should you have any questions, please contact Kim McKnight, Park Planning Division, at (512) 974-9478 or via e-mail at [Kim.McKnight@austintexas.gov](mailto:Kim.McKnight@austintexas.gov).

Cc: Liana Kallivoka, PhD, PE, LEED Fellow, Assistant Director, PARD  
Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager, Park Planning Division  
Kim McKnight, Environmental Conservation Program Manager, Park Planning Division



# City of Austin

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Parks and Recreation Department  
200 South Lamar Blvd, Austin, TX 78704

**Summary of Board and Commission Actions to Date for  
Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan for Facilities, Land and Programs  
*Updated September 19, 2019***

October 23, 2018 – Briefing to the Parks and Recreation Board on the Parks and Recreation Department Long Range Plan process; No action taken.

August 13, 2019 – A motion by the Urban Transportation Commission to support the Austin Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan was approved on a vote of 6-0 vote with Commissioners Alvarado, Davis, Reyna, and Wilfley absent. Minutes attached.

August 14, 2019 – Briefing to the Commission on Seniors; No action taken.

August 14, 2019 – Briefing to the Early Childhood Council; No action taken.

August 19, 2019 – Briefing to the Arts Commission; No action taken.

August 21, 2019 – A motion by the Downtown Commission to accept the Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities and Programs as presented and look forward to more updates as they come out and approve the plan was approved on a 10-0 vote with Commissioners Schissler and Henao-Robledo absent. Full motion attached.

August 27, 2019 – Briefing to the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Life Commission; No action taken.

September 3, 2019 – Briefing to the African American Resource Advisory Commission; No action taken.

September 4, 2019 – Briefing to the E.S.B. Mexican American Cultural Center Advisory Board; No action taken.

September 9, 2019 – Briefing to the LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission; No action taken.

September 9, 2019 – Briefing to the Pedestrian Advisory Council; No action taken.

September 9, 2019 – Briefing to the Austin Travis County Food Policy Board; No action taken.

September 10, 2019 – Briefing to the Community Development Commission; No action taken.

September 17, 2019 – Briefing to the Asian American Quality of Life Advisory Commission; No action taken.

September 17, 2019 – Briefing to the Bicycle Advisory Council; No action taken.

September 18, 2019 – A motion by the Environmental Commission to support the Austin Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan was approved with conditions on a vote of 9-0 vote with Commissioners Smith absent. Full motion attached.

September 24, 2019 – To be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Board.

September 24, 2019 – To be reviewed by the Planning Commission.

**Urban Transportation Commission (UTC)  
Meeting Minutes****Regular Meeting  
13 August 2019**

The Urban Transportation Commission convened in a meeting on August 13, 2019 at 721 Barton Springs Road (Town Lake Center Room 130) in Austin, Texas.

**Commission Members in Attendance:**

Kelly Blume	Samuel Franco	Allie Runas
Mario Champion	Daniel Hennessey	Cynthia Weatherby

**Commission Members Absent:**

Daniel Alvarado	Kelly Davis	Alex Reyna	Michael Wilfley
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**City Staff in Attendance:**

Emily Smith	Cheyenne Krause	Jason Redfern
Jim Dale	Kim McKnight	Jacob Culberson

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Chair Mario Champion called the commission meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JULY 9, 2019 MEETING**

The July minutes were approved on Commissioner Hennessey motion, Commissioner Runas second on a 6-0 vote with Commissioners Alvarado, Davis, Reyna, and Wilfley absent.

3. **CITIZENS COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

- Carlos León

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities and Programs – Discussion and Possible Action**

A presentation was made by Kim McKnight, Environmental Conservation Program Manager, Austin Parks and Recreation Department.

A motion to support the Austin Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan was approved on Commissioner Champion motion, Commissioner Weatherby second on a 6 - 0 vote with Commissioners Alvarado, Davis, Reyna, and Wilfley absent.

**B. Pedicab and group cycle businesses: operational boundaries and use of electric pedal-assist motors – Discussion and Possible Action**

A presentation was made by Jacob Culberson, Mobility Services Division Manager, and Jason Redfern, Parking Enterprise Manager, Austin Transportation Department.

Commissioner Champion presented draft recommendation language which, after debate and amendment, read as follows:

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Urban Transportation Commission recommends City Council convert the electric-assist pedicab pilot program into a permanent program which applies to pedicab and group cycles, applicable to 100% of permitted rides for hire, and available within the entire city of Austin.*

A motion to approve the recommendation was approved on Commissioner Hennessey motion, Commissioner Runas second on a 6 - 0 vote with Commissioners Alvarado, Davis, Reyna, and Wilfley absent.

**C. Recommendation regarding Speed Management Program draft framework – Discussion and Possible Action**

Commissioner Champion presented draft recommendation language which, after debate and amendment, read as follows:

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Urban Transportation Commission recommends that City Council fund Austin Transportation Department's Speed Management Program in the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget with an operating budget which allows wide-spread and robustly implemented engineering solutions and community outreach/education programs;*

*AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the UTC recommends that Speed Management programs include dedicated funds for both existing and future streets to achieve safe bike and pedestrian experiences.*

A motion to approve the recommendation was approved on Commissioner Hennessey motion, Commissioner Champion second on a 6 - 0 vote with Commissioners Alvarado, Davis, Reyna, and Wilfley absent.

**5. STAFF AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Downtown Commission** – On July 17 the commission approved a recommendation requesting that Austin Transportation review criteria for downtown right of way management to better mitigate the impact of street closures and construction staging on bike lanes.
- B. Joint Sustainability Committee** – No update.
- C. Bicycle Advisory Council (BAC)** – On July 16 the BAC received a briefing regarding speed management and approved a recommendation regarding Duval St from San Jacinto Blvd to 53<sup>rd</sup>.
- D. Pedestrian Advisory Council (PAC)** – On August 5 the PAC approved recommendations regarding electric-assist pedicab regulation, redesigning railroad crossings for safety of bicyclists and pedestrians, and speed management.
- E. City Council Mobility Committee** – No update.
- F. Project Connect Advisory Network** – No update.

**6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- A.** Austin Green PUD application and TIA review (Franco; August or October)
- B.** E-bikes and E-scooters on Austin Trails Pilot Program (Champion, Weatherby; October)
- C.** Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization 2045 Transportation Plan (Davis, Wilfley; November)
- D.** Congress Ave Urban Design Initiative - Pedestrian Advisory Council recommendations (Champion and Hennessey; TBD)
- E.** Land Development Code (Davis; TBD)
- F.** Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (Davis; TBD)

**7. ADJOURNMENT** Commissioner Champion adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m. without objection.



**DOWNTOWN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION 20190821-05**

Date: August 21, 2019

Subject: Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities and Programs

Motioned By: Vice Chair Jennifer Bristol                      Seconded By: Commissioner August Harris

**Recommendation**

To accept the Parks and Recreation Department Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities and Programs as presented and look forward to more updates as they come out and approve the plan.

**Vote            10-0**

For: Chair Joel Sher, Vice Chair Jennifer Bristol, Commissioner Sam Sargent, Commissioner Meghan Skornia, Commission Chris Kanipe, Commissioner Andrew Harrison, Commissioner Megan Meisenbach, Commissioner August Harris, Commissioner David Gomez, Commissioner Christopher Lehman

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioner Jim Schissler and Commissioner Melissa Henao-Robledo

Attest: Mona Sanchez, Commission Liaison, Economic Development Department

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mona Sanchez". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.



## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MOTION 20190918 007a

**Date:** September 18, 2019

**Subject:** Briefing, discussion, and possible action on a recommendation to Austin City Council on the Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities, and Programs

**Motion by:** Katie Coyne

**Seconded by:** Peggy Maceo

### **RATIONALE:**

**WHEREAS**, the Environmental Commission recognizes the purpose and goals of the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) draft Long Range Plan: to assess the state of the current park system, to define a vision for 2028, to guide future growth and development, and to provide citywide recommendations and priorities for parks; and

**WHEREAS**, the Environmental Commission recognizes parks and trails play a key role in maintaining the environmental function of the City as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, the Environmental Commission recognizes the implementation of the draft Long Range Plan's city-wide strategies: relief from urban life, park access, urban park spaces, alignment of programs, and efficiency of operations, have measurable impacts on the natural systems, quality of life, and climate resilience of the City of Austin; and

**WHEREAS**, the Environmental Commission recognizes the synergy between the Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan and other initiatives, plans, and studies in the City is vital to ensure Austin is a resilient city in the long-term.

**THEREFORE**, the Environmental Commission recommends support for the Parks and Recreation Department Long Range Plan with the following conditions:

### **Environmental Commission Conditions:**

- Require new trails, including primitive trails in highly sensitive environmental areas be reviewed by the Environmental Commission.
- Require natural areas acquisition and development to be reviewed by the Environmental Commission.
- Require review from the Environmental Commission for any Parks or Natural Areas Master Plan.
- Include a recommendation to create standards for the integration of green infrastructure and climate adaptive features into parkland including green stormwater infrastructure, but also including features that promote diverse ecosystem functions such as mitigating urban heat island, sequestering carbon, providing enhanced habitat, and mitigating air pollution, among others.



- In recommendation B.2.2.3 – include language emphasizing the need to balance mitigating environmental degradation with recreational goals.
- Adapt recommendation A.3.4 to include balancing water access in some places with more functional management of eroding shorelines in other places including the implementation of living and hybrid shorelines as piloted by the Watershed Protection Department.
- Edit the draft “Score Card Tool” to include metrics on green infrastructure, climate resilience features, and other multi-functional goals as outlined in the plan’s recommendations.
- Conduct a rigorous study on the environmental carrying capacity of parks, open space, and trail systems and utilize that information to make decisions about environmental/user tradeoffs.
- Create standards regarding the appropriate application of increased lighting to mitigate safety concerns to minimize environmental impacts on sensitive ecologies; and ensure all lighting is Dark Skies compliant.
- Require temporary lighting to comply with Dark Skies standards or to be reviewed by the Environmental Commission.
- Clarify the use of displacement data in application – i.e. ensure the City is not advocating for a lower level of service or environmental quality in areas most at risk of displacement.
- Reduce single-occupancy vehicle parking lots on parkland and emphasize mass transit access at all parks and facilities.
- Prohibit styrofoam at all events at all parks and facilities.
- Emphasize nature-based playscapes and nature-based playgrounds for children and children with disabilities to interact with and learn about nature.
- Consider more infrastructure and program opportunities to highlight urban nature even in dense areas, including the development of satellite or permanent “urban nature centers” in downtown or east Austin.
- Ensure that environmental, cultural, and heritage programs are integrated in ways that promote a holistic story of Austin.
- In E.1.5, include the Watershed Protection Department as a key partner in recommendations regarding partnerships for implementing climate adaptive and green infrastructure features.
- Include a more substantial recommendation around how cross-departmental cost-sharing and project coordination (i.e. between Watershed and PARD for instance) could be better leveraged for increased efficiency.
- In E.4, explore opportunities to add more Full Time Employees to support coordination with PARD partners to ensure efficient collaborations for all parties.
- Upon completion of the “How we will measure and track progress (The Matrix)” section, the Environmental Commission may review and provide comments prior to plan adoption.

## **VOTE 9-0**

For: Bedford, Creel, Thompson, Guerrero, Coyne, Ramberg, Neely, Maceo, and Gordon

Against: None

Abstain: None

Recuse: None

Absent: Smith

Approved By:

Linda Guerrero, Environmental Commission Chair

DRAFT