



PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DATE: October 2019

MASTER PLAN UPDATES:

PARK PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Walter E. Long Metro Park Master Plan

The Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park Master Plan held four public meetings on April 4, June 6, October 24, and December 5, 2018. The public meetings allowed stakeholders the opportunity to provide input on the preferred park concepts and possible revenue generation activities that could be identified in the park master plan. The master plan approval by City Council has been postponed until further notice. The park is located in *Council District 1*.

Additional information can be found on the project's website:

<https://www.austintexas.gov/departments/walter-e-long-park-master-plan>

PARD Long Range Plan

PARD's Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities and Programs is developed every 10 years and provides a blueprint to guide land acquisition, capital improvements and the development of programs and new amenities at park facilities. PARD's Long Range Plan will be presented to City Council on November 14, 2019, for consideration to be approved by Ordinance as an amendment to the City's Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan. Additional information can be found on the project's website:

<http://austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks>

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES:

COMMUNITY RECREATION DIVISION

2D TEMPO Project – with the help of Art in Public Places Project (AIPP), Gus Garcia Recreation Center was awarded a temporary art project for display. The art project consisted of a grant awarded to local artist Larissa Stephens to commission an art piece for the site. Larissa met with the advisory board to ask keywords, objects and symbols that came to mind when they thought of the center. Keywords such as diversity, happiness, parkland, wild- flowers, youth, and seniors, were mentioned, including the word colorful. From this the artist commissioned four panels, that each told a part in the same story. When viewed from approaching the centers entrance, the story could be told from beginning to end, and consequently be told in reverse when leaving the center. The four panels tell the story through art work of a family forming a close bond. Flowers bloom in the background as the sun rises and sets with the moon in each panel. Each panel consists of rich vibrant colors and can be seen from the parking lot and facility walkway.

NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMS

The City of Austin signed a contract with the Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy to transfer operation of the entry gate. This contract includes revenue sharing, as well as a fee increase. The Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy began operating the gate, and taking credit cards, on October 1, 2019.

PARK PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Little Stacy Neighborhood Park

The construction work was substantially completed in early September 2019. The general park improvement project includes new park walkways, park security lighting, improved park water and electrical infrastructure, installation of engineered wood fiber (EWF) safety surface at the existing playground and a new slide at the adjacent hillside. New tennis court lighting and court surfacing and the existing park shelter house\restroom interior has been improved to comply with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and includes a roof replacement, exterior wall repair and new doors. In addition, several water quality amenities have been included to address erosion conditions at the park site.

The Shelter House stucco repairs and paint of building are completed. Playground, hillside slide and tennis courts finish surface, striping and nets installation are completed. Temporary irrigation has been removed. The park opened to the public on Saturday, October 5, 2019. The stakeholder community group is planning an opening event for the park in conjunction with PARD's Events Office at a later time. The project is funded by 2012 Park Improvements Bond and Parkland Dedication Fees. This project is in *Council District 9*.

The department continues to engage with Watershed Protection Department in coordinating efforts for the Blunn Creek Water Quality Project. The project will close off East Side Dr. from the intersection of Sunset Lane northward to an existing alley just shy of Alameda Dr. The vacation of this section of East Side Drive will allow the installation of an ADA parking spot and a new pedestrian trail.



Walkways and basketball court



Remodeled restroom facility and enhanced park walkways

Ricky Guerrero Pocket Park

This capital improvement project includes new park walkways, park security lighting, expansion of the playground with new playscape equipment, and engineered wood fiber (EWF) safety surface; a remodel of existing restrooms; replacement of sidewalks and parking spot to comply with ADA; new picnic tables; and addition of rain garden for water quality.

The contractor has completed the retaining walls and the installation of the plant material for the rain garden. Walkways, restroom improvements, ADA parking spot, park site lighting, playground expansion area are all completed. The new preschool age playscape, swings along with park benches, picnic table and grilles have been installed. A temporary irrigation system is in place to establish the landscape plant material installed. Park is anticipated to open to the public by early November, pending completion of all remaining items. Project is funded by the 2012 Park Improvements G.O. Bond and Parkland Dedication Fees. The park is located in *District 9*.



Completed playscape improvements and park walkways

Westenfield Tennis Courts at Westenfield Neighborhood Park

The tennis courts at Westenfield Park are nearing completion. The traditional green court surface finish coat along with stripping and sealing were completed in early October. Minor items remain to be completed including the perimeter fencing. The tennis courts are anticipated to re-open to the public in late October 2019.



The project is funded through 2012 G.O. Bonds and Parkland Dedication Fees. The project is located in *District 10*.

Colony Park District Park

Work continues in completing the expansive District Park at Colony Park. Once completed, the park will offer large picnic pavilions, a perimeter granite gravel trail, multipurpose play field and a baseball field. The improvements will also include ADA accessible playscapes for ages 2-5 and 5-12. All park amenities will be linked by new ADA compliant walkways. In addition, the City of Austin, Arts in Public Places (AIPP) program has completed a large mural on the face of the adjacent recreation building. The project is funded through 2012 Bonds and Parkland Dedication Fees in addition to generous funding assistance through the Austin Parks Foundation and St. David's Foundation, and a grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Colony Park District Park is located in *District 1*.



OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE UPDATES:

AQUATIC DIVISION

Bartholomew Pool

The pool was closed from September 25-27, 2019 to replace the coping around the lap pool. The coping was installed and the pool resumed normal operating hours for the public on September 28, 2019. In addition, the pool heaters will be in service starting October 11, 2019.

Big Stacy

APD continues to provide security services at Big Stacy while PARD works on being added to APD's current security services contract. The cost to have APD continue providing their security services will cost the department about half the cost we are currently paying for APD patrols. It is critical to have security services for the safety of our pool patrons and staff, and to facilitate cooperation of the homeless community to obey our facility rules and expectations. Big Stacy pool is open on a daily, and it is one of the City's year-around, heated pools. The hot water well is currently scheduled to be in operation beginning October 11, 2019. The facility will also be closing November 2- December 1st for well pump maintenance and to install a new pool surface called Eco-Finish. Eco Finish has a 10-year warranty and is smooth surface that is resistant to chalking, and creates a long lasting seal. This fall closure will eliminate the need for a Spring Clean closure in 2020.

BSP

The Barton Springs Pool "Howl at the Moon" event, also renown as the Full Moon Swim, was held on October 13, 2019 and there about 750 patrons and community members were in attendance. All attendees were required to pay the usual Barton Springs Pool entry fee.

Every full moon, hundreds of Austinites descend on Barton Springs Pool, crane their necks to the sky, and howl at the moon. As Austin's population has grown, so has the attendance for the Howl at the Moon event. This tradition originally started out as a small, community organized and family-friendly event. However, the attendance for these events has topped 2,500 individuals during the summer months. This increase in attendance for this event has caused several safety concerns that include, the obstruction of walkways and there has also been an increase in noise levels.

In the summer of 2017, the Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) implemented new rules at the Barton Springs Pool Howl at the Moon event to help ensure the safety of participants, and to preserve an enjoyable event for those in attendance. The new rules worked out real well, and PARD will continue to implement the following rules at future annual events:

- Extend the standard entry fee past 9:00 p.m. for full moon events
- Limit the number of attendees to 750 after 8:30 p.m.
- Ensure there are additional law enforcement officers available to assist with crowd control
- Conduct post-event evaluations to determine opportunities for improvement

PARD staff members are working to preserve the integrity of this community tradition while balancing the public safety concerns that have arisen with the event's growth. Any additional changes will be announced prior to upcoming events.

Deep Eddy

On Wednesday, October 9, one of the well motors was found to be non-operational at Deep Eddy pool. This issue resulted with a late opening of the pool's deep end on Thursday, October 10 and the shallow end on Friday, October 11. Contractors began to work on the motor on Thursday, October 10, and the work is expected to be completed by Tuesday, October 15, 2019.

Givens Pool

The Aquatic Division Maintenance staff completed the leak detection process at Givens Pool, and by re-caulking the joints in the diving well, hope there is no further leaking.

Metz Pool

Staff are currently working to address a leak found in a return line and repair pool liner.

Montopolis Pool

Staff report that the work to repair the pool filter at Montopolis Pool will begin the week of October 14, 2019.

Springwoods Pool

The pool heaters have been fixed and were back in service on Friday, October 11, 2019.

CENTRALIZED PROGRAM DIVISION

Athletic Programs

- Garrison Baseball Complex – Irrigation upgrades, in process.
- Govalle Baseball Field – Fencing and netting upgrades, in process.
- Havin Complex – Shade structure installs, in process.
- Krieg Complex – Multi-purpose field turf, planning/design stages.

COMMUNITY RECREATION DIVISION

Dove Springs is still closed, anticipating reopening date to be in January.

Natural Resources Programs

René Barrera Indiangrass Wildlife Sanctuary is in the final stages of a land management plan update. Siglo Group has been contracted to complete this plan, which is expected to be complete by the end of the calendar year.

PARC, in partnership with Austin Water and Watershed Protection, has drafted a land management plan for the William H. Russell Karst Preserve. An updated report, <http://austintexas.gov/edims/pio/document.cfm?id=328533>, was provided to City Council on October 3.

PARC is responding to an ongoing Wildfire Audit being conducted by the City Auditor's Office. A draft report, <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/city-council/2019/20190814-afc.htm>, was presented in August and the committee will revisit the subject again on October 23.

October is the start of fall planting season in the Parks. Upcoming tree planting events include:

- Oct 18 - Gustavo "Gus" Garcia District Park, with support from the Austin Foundation.
 - Oct 24 - Barton Springs Pool, in partnership with Friends of Barton Springs Pool.
- The Friends of Barton Springs Pool, in partnership with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, are planning to implement a tree planting recommended by

the Barton Springs Pool Master Plan. The proposed plan includes a total of seven trees to be planted on the south lawn. Five Chinquapin Oaks and two Bur Oaks. The purpose of the planting is to meet the master plan goal of “planting more native Texas trees to add shade and diversify the tree stock at the pool.” PARD Forestry is also planning for forest succession, so that as the mature pecans start to decline, there will be younger trees already well established, in roughly the same area. This planting does not intend to change the look and feel of this location, but rather will maintain the current use of the space and help ensure the character of the south lawn remains intact for future generations.

- Nov 22 - Civitan Neighborhood Park, with volunteers from TreeFolks.
- Sept 20 - The large pecan tree at the north corner of the Barton Springs Pool bathhouse experienced a significant limb failure. Forestry’s on-call team safely removed the limb and re-opened the area to the public.
- In preparation for the Austin City Limits festival, Forestry maintenance staff provided 410 hours of tree pruning services to ensure public safety as well as vehicle and equipment clearances.

PROGRAM/EVENT UPDATES:

CENTRALIZED PROGRAM DIVISION

Oct 3-6: Special Olympics State Competition in College Station (swimming and softball). McBeth Recreation Center – RECAP: 41 athletes attended the competition; Softball team brought home a bronze medal; Several athletes had personal records/achievements at the swim meet

Oct 21 thru Nov 21 - Totally Cool, Totally-Session 1. Multiple Recreation Center.

- Fresh Threads – Dittmar (M/W 5:30-7:30PM) and Virginia L. Brown (T/TH 5:30-7:30PM)
- Short Film – Turner-Roberts (M/W 6-8PM) and Northwest (T/TH 5-7PM)
- Sculpture – Delores Duffie (M/W 6-8PM) and Cantu-Pan American (T/TH 5:30-7:30PM)
- Painting – South Austin (M/W 5:30-7:30PM) and Gus Garcia (T/TH 5-7PM)

COMMUNITY RECREATION DIVISION

Dittmar

- Oct 1 - National Night Out Event, 7-9 pm. This event will feature live music, free food, face painting, games, and visits from APD and the Fire Department.
- Oct 5 - Volunteer Appreciation Event, 11 am-1 pm. This event is for everyone who volunteered at Dittmar over the past year as well as their families. Participants will enjoy free food, fun, and fellowship.
- Oct 26 - Howl-O-Scream, 5:30-7:30pm. Free event featuring a carnival, haunted house and treats for all ages.

Montopolis

- Oct 1 - National Night Out - Civitan Neighborhood Park, 5-7 pm. Free public safety information provided by various vendors for the community.
- Oct 31 - Halloween Carnival - Allison Elementary Gymnasium, 5:30-7:30 pm. Free games and Trick or Treat fun in a safe environment.

South Austin

- Oct 25 - Moonlight Movie. Will show a Halloween themed movie for all of the community from 7-9 pm. Snacks and light refreshments will be provided.

Conley Guerrero Senior Activity Center

- Oct 10 - State Fair of Texas trip, 6:30 am-10 pm.

Hancock Recreation Center

- Nov 2 - Austin Senior Games. Cornhole is scheduled to occur.

Dottie Jordan Recreation Center

- Oct 12 - Family Pumpkin Carving, 10 am-12 pm; Pumpkins, carving tools, paint and markers provided. Carnival games and light refreshments provided.
- Oct 25 - Movie in the Park – Hocus Pocus, 8-10 pm. Popcorn and lemonade will be served.

Virginia L. Brown

- Nov 14 - Community Thanksgiving Dinner, 5:30-7:30 pm

Gus Garcia Recreation Center

- Oct 12-Nov 2 - Fall Soccer
- Oct 25 - All centers Teen Turn Up, Monster Mash Dance, 6-8 pm.
- Oct 26 - District Event: Howl O Scream, 5:30-7:30 pm.
- Nov 22 - Movies under the Stars, 6:30pm-8:30pm
- Nov 25 - Turkey Bingo, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Turner Roberts

- Oct 1 - National Night Out, 6-9 pm.
- Oct 31 - Howl-O-Scream Halloween event, , 6:30-8:30 pm.

Givens

- Oct 31 - Howl-O-Scream Halloween event, 6:30-8:30 pm.

Metz

- Oct 17 - Halloween Carnival and Haunted House event, 6-8 pm.

Parque Zaragoza

- Oct 25 - Family Pumpkin Carving, 6-8 pm.

Pan American

- Oct 11 - Fall Family Movie Night, Aladdin, 6 pm.

Museum & Cultural Program

Asian American Resource Center

- Oct 4 - *Fall into Art* Opening Exhibit Reception, *Attendance – 66*
- Oct 12 - Asian American History 101
- Oct 19 - Zine Making Workshop
- Oct 22 - Veteran's Art Festival Reception
- Oct 26 - Healing Culinary Traditions from Asia
- Nov 9 - Fly Girl: A Reading of new Play by Christine Hoang
- Nov 14 - *Your Name* Film Screening
- Nov 16 - Storytime: Indonesian culture through storytelling and craft making!

Brush Square Museums

- Oct 4: Austin Veterans Art Festival Exhibition Opening, *Attendance – 8*
- Oct 4: Exhibit: *Shattered Not Broken: History of Trauma (PTSD)*, *Est. Attendance – 350 per month*
- Oct 11: J.C. Elkins O. Henry Museum Literary Discussion Group, *Attendance – 14*
- Oct 31: Second Annual Journey Into The Beyond! History of Spiritualism: Event, *Est. Attendance – 40*

- Oct (month long): Susanna Dickinson Museum: *Other Messengers*; Augmented Reality (AR) exhibit, *Attendance – estimated 350 per month*
- Oct (month long): Susanna Dickinson Museum: *Survivors of the Alamo*; Augmented Reality (AR) exhibit, *Attendance – estimated 350 per month*
- Oct (month long): O. Henry Museum: *In Defense of Prisoner 30664* exhibit, *Attendance – estimated 425 per month*

George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural and Genealogy Center

- Sept 20-29: Arcos Theatre Performances (6), *Attendance – 312*
- Oct 1: Austin Mobility, *Attendance – 215*
- Oct 2: Pollyanna Theatre, *Attendance – 98*

Museum & Cultural Program (continued)

- Oct 2: PARD CEU, *Attendance – 35*
- Oct 3: Pollyanna Theatre, *Attendance – 91*
- Oct 3: LifeWorks, *Attendance – 65*
- Oct 4: Pollyanna Theatre, *Attendance – 74*
- Oct 4: Deborah Roberts Book Signing, *Attendance – 165*
- Oct 10: Pollyanna Theatre, *Attendance – 89*
- Oct 10: Art in Business EAST, *Attendance – 6*
- Oct 11: Pollyanna Theatre, *Attendance – 93*
- Oct 12: Read It
- Oct 12: Pollyanna Theatre
- Oct 13: Sunken Stage Collaboration
- Oct 16: Art In Business: Accounting for Creatives
- Oct 23: Religious Studies Collaboration
- Oct 24: Art & Business: Artist Legal Rights
- Oct 25: Folktales Book Club
- Oct 26: Spooktacular Pumpkin Carving

Dougherty Arts Center

- Sept 25: Artist Talk with Vy Ngo, *Attendance – 103*
- Oct 2: The Online Application Process, *Attendance – 16*
- Oct 7: Family Clay Day, *Attendance – 75*
- Oct 9: Empty Puppy Bowls, *Attendance – 45*
- Oct 11: Ghost Throwing, *Attendance – 24*
- Oct 12: Austin Pottery Festival
- Oct 12: November 9: Queens of Austin Ayla Erdener Art Exhibit
- Oct 12: Ayla Erdener Artist Reception
- Oct 12: December 4: Austin Veteran Arts Fest Exhibits – Pride in Service and Family Strong
- Oct 16: Date Night @ the DAC Bedazzle Bonanza
- Oct 18: October 19: Austin Veteran Arts Fest Performance

- Oct 23: Ayla Erdener Artist Talk
- Oct 26: Art on the Porch Community Engagement Night
- Oct 29: Open Mic Night

ESB – Mexican American Cultural Center

- Oct 1: Austin High School Tour, Attendance – 40
- Oct 5: Sugar skull workshop, *Attendance – 20*
- Oct 5: Tejano Genealogical Society Lecture Series
- Oct 5, 12, 19, 26: Academia Cuauhtli, *Attendance – 40*
- Oct 5, 12, 19, 26: Yoga en Español, *Attendance – 10*
- Oct 7: Helping Hand Home for Children Tour, *Attendance – 15*
- Oct 9: Nuestro Grupo Meeting, *Attendance – 12*
- Oct 11: Seminary Southwest Tour, *Attendance – 20*
- Oct 12: Dia de la Raza
- Oct 12: Sugar Skull Workshop
- Oct 4-12: Latino Artist Access Program (LAAP) Teatro Vivo presents “Yana Wana’s Legend of the Bluebonnet”, *Attendance – 1,845*
- Oct 10: (LAAP) The Theorists present “Theorist LAB”
- Oct 12, 19, and 26: Caminos Teen Leadership Meetings
- Oct 13, 20 and 27: The Bronze Community Band Open Rehearsals
- Oct 16: U. of Texas Tour
- Oct 17: Del Valle High School Tour
- Oct 18. Honor Our Fallen Latino Comrades
- Oct 19: (LAAP) Escandalo Presents! A night of improvised comedy and more!
- Oct 19: Sugar Skull Workshop
- Oct 20: (LAAP) Ballet Folklorico de Austin presents: Fandango Del Día de Los Muertos
- Oct 25-27: (LAAP) Chamacos Dance Company presents “Viajes”

Elisabet Ney Museum

- Oct 11: Landscape Learning Day – Activity, *Attendance – 11*
- Oct 19: Real Estate Council of Austin Christmas in October, Event, *Est. Attendance – 250*
- Oct 20: Nosferatu Screening – Event, *Est. Attendance – 50*
- Oct 27: Polkapocalypse – Special Event, *Est. Attendance – 1,000*

Oakwood Cemetery Chapel Visitors Center

- Sept 21: Exhibition opening for “To Believe” with W.C. Clark, *Attendance – 28*
- Sept 22: Austin Museum Day with Save Austin’s Cemeteries, *Attendance – 29*
- Sept 27: PARD Planning staff recognition luncheon, *Attendance – 25*

Old Bakery & Emporium

- Oct 3-November 12: Back to the Basics/AVAFest art gallery exhibit
- Oct 4: Artists Reception, *Attendance – 23*
- Nov 1: Artist Reception
- Nov 1-December 4: Throught the Vision art gallery exhibit

Zilker Hillside Theater

- Sept 16: Austin Symphony Performance, *Attendance – 500*
- Sept 20: Alante Flamenco Performance, *Attendance – 471*
- Sept 21: Alante Flamenco Performance, *Attendance – 520*

NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMS

Nature Based Programs

Camacho Activity Center

- Nov 15th-19th: Annual Film Festival where Camacho Activity Center screens movies crafted by program participants at Fiesta Gardens 6 pm.

Austin Nature Preserves

- Oct 20: sign unveiling at the newly renamed Rene Barrera Indiangrass Wildlife Sanctuary 9 am.

Zilker Botanical Garden

- Oct 26: Roots & Wings Festival. A combined community-wide celebration for Arbor Day and Monarch Appreciation Day from 9 am-3 pm.
- Oct 25-Dec 31: “A Very Hungry Caterpillar,” special partnership with the author, Eric Carle, to celebrate 50 years of the beloved children’s book. Events will occur during this time throughout the Garden.

PARK PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Recycling Program

On Sept. 19, City Council approved a \$930,000 contract for 800 recycling receptacles and 800 landfill trash receptacles. Vendor Max-R is providing and shipping the assembled receptacles, and Piatra is under contract to install the receptacles as 1:1 pairs mounted on posts on top of a concrete pad, to comply with the City’s Universal Recycling Ordinance. The new landfill trash receptacles will be replacing outdated trash receptacles (such as the old rectangular concrete bins) and will also be placed in new locations where appropriate. PARD’s Recycling Program Manager is meeting with district park managers to identify locations for receptacles and dumpsters. Top priority is to implement recycling in all metropolitan parks, including the Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail. The first shipment of the new receptacles is anticipated later this fall.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:

CONTRACTS AND CONCESSIONS

Zilker Zephyr

PARD is currently in the process of establishing a new contract regarding the Zilker Zephyr. On October 8, PARD Purchasing made a presentation to the Concessions and Contracts Committee (CCC), the recommendation of establishing a new professional services contract with the existing vendor, for a contract period of 5 years. However, the CCC decided to recommend moving forward with a competitive bidding process. This contract issue will be presented at the October 22nd Parks and Recreation Board Meeting.

Town Lake Concession Solicitations

The Texas Rowing Center concessionaire contract is set to expire May 18, 2020. The Contract Management Unit is in the process of developing a draft scope of work and implementation schedule in

preparation for the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a concessionaire to maintain and operate a boating concession on Town Lake.

Management and Operation of Late-Night Youth Recreational Basketball Tournament Services

The development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) is underway to seek an organization, experienced in the management and operation of a recreation basketball tournament service for youth between the ages of 10 and 19.

COMMUNICATIONS ENGAGEMENT

Barton Springs Bathhouse Rehabilitation

The fourth community meeting for the Barton Springs Bathhouse Rehabilitation project will be held on October 30 from 5:30pm to 7:00 pm at the Zilker Botanical Garden. At this meeting, a presentation will be given to community members, identifying the final proposed schematics and the beginning of design development.

Nash Hernandez Building at Holly Shores / Edward Rendon Sr. Metropolitan Park at Auditorium Shores

Park Development will begin community engagement to discuss future plans for the Nash Hernandez Building. Following the completion of the 2015 Master Plan, this site was initially identified for partnership between the Austin Police Department (APD) and PARD. However, based largely on feedback from the community, APD left the project to allow this to be solely a PARD project. Community Engagement will begin on November 20 to discuss possible uses for the building balancing the needs for space by PARD and uses desired for the community. Currently, there are no funds to implement any plans.

Givens District Park Master Plan Phase I Implementation

After meeting with the Givens Working Group, the first community meeting for implementing the Master Plan will be Wednesday, November 13, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Givens Recreation Center. Phase I will include spaces where the current amenities are found: playground north of the recreation Center, baseball field south of the recreation center, basketball and tennis courts along Springdale Road and Oak Springs Drive.

PARD Partner Projects

Austin Parks Foundation (APF) EastLink Trail: Following the second small group meeting, APF will host two “activations” along the EastLink Trail. On November 3, “Explore the Trail: Activism” will begin at 1 p.m., inviting people to travel along the trail to consider key nodes along it and identify the history of environmental justice and the edible landscape that has been on or near the trail. The second activation will occur on November 9 at 10 a.m. and focus on the theme of “Culture,” the history of economic empowerment, art, recreation and health. Community members will be guided to different areas to hear from community leaders in order to help facilitate feedback on this placemaking opportunity.

The Trail Foundation: The second community gathering for the Rainey Street Trailhead project will be Saturday, November 9, 8 a.m. to noon near the Miró Rivera Restroom. This gathering will seek additional feedback on what community members would like to see in this space.

TTF Holly Project: The Trail Foundation also led a small group discussion on October 16 to discuss the Holly Project.

Annual Report

Preparation is underway for our annual FYE 2019 report. All PARD Divisions have been notified and have submitted SPOCs. The next deadline for outlines is October 18 and final information is due November 1.

Elisabet Ney Grant Funding

The [Elisabet Ney Museum](#) has been named a finalist for the 2019 Partners in Preservation: Main Streets grant by the [National Trust for Historic Preservation](#). The nationwide campaign showcases the centennial of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote, by engaging the public in preserving historic places. Up to \$200k in restoration funds will be awarded by the sites that receives the most votes at <http://voteyourmainstreet.org/Austin> from the public through October 29. \$50k in funding will be awarded to the group that has the best one-day turnout for an event, which for Ney, will be October 27 with Polkapocalypse.

AVA Fest

AVA Fest which begins on October 12 is focused on generating awareness and support to prevent veteran suicides, using art as a way to heal. City Council recently waived \$20k+ rental fees for AVA Fest, a cross-departmental art exhibit at various city-owned facilities across. The festival, which runs through Nov. 16, includes a variety of events throughout the Austin community, each working to address veteran suicide by unifying veterans with their communities through different art mediums. CEU and CPIO are working together on promotion.

iSpeak Training

The first training for the implementation of iSpeak will be Friday, October 25 at the Asian American Resource Center. iSpeak is an initiative led by CPIO to enable better customer service and communication between City employees and community members with limited English proficiency (LEP). The AARC has been identified as a key area with high numbers of LEP people. Additional facilities will be trained through FY 2020 in order to achieve the goals of PARD's Language Access Plan.

PARK PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Peer City Visit – Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR)

October 7-9, 2019

Austin PARD had the opportunity to host staff members from Denver Parks and Recreation (DPR). Members of the Park Planning Division visited with DPR staff and discussed strategies for improving park access, land acquisitions, public outreach and partnerships, and park master planning methods. We discussed the differences in policies and processes of our cities. We enjoyed a short tour of diverse parks in Austin. PARD staff gained insight into another city's parks system and hope to explore their parks soon.

Kingsbury Commons at Pease District Park Groundbreaking Event

October 16, 2019, 9:00 am

A ground breaking event was held on October 16, 2019 to commence the proposed improvements to Kingsbury Commons at Pease Park. The capital improvements are being sponsored by the Pease Park Conservancy in collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Departments. The improvements include

the adaptive repurposing of the existing Tudor Cottage as a community gathering space with new terraced seating, a unique nature play area, a state-of-the-art water play feature, an innovative treehouse, safe and inviting park gateways, a spring-fed water feature, improved basketball court and baseball field, a new volunteer plaza and storage building, multigenerational workout equipment, enhanced restrooms, new bocce court and numerous new native planting



Entry image of Kingsbury Commons courtesy of the Pease Park Conservancy

It's My Park Day

November 2, 2019

In partnership with Austin Parks' Foundation (APF), It's My Park Day will be held on Saturday November 2nd. Registration is now open: <https://austinparks.givepulse.com/group/116293-Its-My-Park-Day-Fall>

KaBoom! Build Day Ribbon-cutting Ceremony

November 6, 2019, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

Wooten Neighborhood Park

1500 Dale Dr, Austin, TX 78757

Help us put kids first in Austin by creating a new place for kids to play with Austin Parks & Recreation and Austin Parks Foundation! The project is in partnership with KaBOOM!, the national nonprofit dedicated to giving kids the childhood they deserve through great, safe places to play. Build Day starts off with volunteers arriving at an empty site. Within hours, KaBOOM! leads volunteers to transform the space into a community-inspired, state-of-the-art playground. Come witness the transformation yourself! You can join as a community volunteer for the entire day or stop by to observe throughout the day. **The ribbon-cutting ceremony will begin at approximately 2:30 pm.**

Waterloo Greenway – Creek Show 2019

November 7, 2019 – November 17, 2019, 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm nightly

Waterloo Greenway Conservancy (formerly Waller Creek Conservancy) hosts the 6th annual Creek Show, featuring six illuminated art installations created by teams of local artists, landscape architects, and designers. Last year, over 50,000 people attended the event, and this year will include live music

performances each night and family-friendly activities. Visit the exhibits between 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm along Waller Creek between 9th and 12th Streets; check in at Waterloo Greenway offices at Symphony Square. Preview Party on Wednesday, November 6th. More information, including renderings of the exhibits, is available at waterloogreenway.org/events/creek-show-2019/.