



## Recommendation for Action

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**File #:** 19-3491, **Agenda Item #:** 69.

11/14/2019

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### **Posting Language**

Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance amending the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan by adopting the Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities and Programs.

### **Lead Department**

Parks and Recreation

### **Fiscal Note**

This item has no fiscal impact.

### **Prior Council Action:**

20180308 - Authorize negotiation and execution of a contract with Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC, or one of the other qualified offerors to Request for Proposal 8600 SLW0522, to provide a parks and recreation long range plan in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.

20191031 - Set a public hearing to consider an ordinance amending the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan by adopting the Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities and Programs.

### **For More Information:**

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### **Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:**

October 23, 2018 - Briefing to the Parks and Recreation Board on the Parks and Recreation Department Long Range Plan process

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, with Commissioners Alvarado, Davis, Reyna, and Wilfley absent.

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 on a 10-0 vote, with Commissioners Schissler and Henao-Robledo absent.

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

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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 Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan was approved with conditions on a vote of 9-0 vote, with Commissioners Smith absent.

September 24, 2019 - A motion by the Parks and Recreation Board to support the Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan was approved on a vote of 8-0 vote, with Commissioners Morgan, Donovan and Taylor absent.

September 24, 2019 - A motion by the Planning Commission to support the Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan was approved on a vote of 11-0 vote, with Commissioners Flores and Shaw off the dais.

October 1, 2019 - Briefing to the Zoning and Platting Commission; no action taken.

October 7, 2019 - A motion by the Pedestrian Advisory Council to support the Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan was approved with additional recommendations on a vote of 9-0.

#### **Additional Backup Information:**

The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) is proposing to amend the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan parks and recreation element to adopt and attach the Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities and Programs. *Our Parks, Our Future* is the City of Austin Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities, and Programs. 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. The Long Range Plan was informed by a collaborative process with Austin residents, park partners, city staff and other stakeholders. The goal of the Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan is to:

- Assess the state of the current park system and develop a strong data-driven baseline to inform prioritization and track implementation.
- Develop a vision for Austin's park system by engaging the community and City staff to define a new vision that is both inspirational and achievable.
- Guide future growth and development of the park system through a careful analysis and strategic

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investments.

- Develop park system recommendations that include both City-wide strategies and planning area priorities to inform the Capital Improvement Plan and the development of park master plans.

The future of Austin's park and recreation system is impacted by a multitude of forces, trends, and shifts including unprecedented population growth, decreasing public sector funding, increased reliance on private and philanthropic funding, and increased awareness of best practices in sustainable park development and management. The planning effort began with an inventory and evaluation of parks and facilities along with an analysis of demographic data, trends and industry standards for parks. Public outreach has played a critical role in the process, with in-depth engagement of park groups, conservancies, neighborhood associations, nonprofit organizations, and public partners. The community engagement process comprised public meetings, pop-up events, an online community survey, a statistically valid survey, focus groups, and stakeholder interviews. The PARD Long Range Plan team received more than 4,400 survey responses and more than 9,000 comments from people in all ten City Council Districts and many of the communities surrounding Austin.

Additionally, the team convened a Community Engagement Advisory Committee with representatives from all areas of the City, as well as a Technical Advisory Group with representation from all PARD divisions and City staff from Austin Transportation Department, Public Works Department, Economic Development Department, Watershed Protection Department, Office of Real Estate Services, Austin Public Library, Austin Public Health, Planning and Zoning Department, Office of Sustainability, Austin Water, Equity Office, Development Services, and the Corporate Public Information Office.

The Long Range Plan provides a summary of the critical role that parks and recreation play in how Austinites experience our City. Parks bring people together, offer recreational opportunities for residents, and provide critical environmental benefits that improve the quality of our air, water, and soil. Extensive research documents the benefits provided by public spaces, including improved physical and mental health, increased community cohesion, economic benefits, and elevated environmental services. Recommendations are structured to provide both City-wide strategies and recommendations by planning areas.