

AUSTIN PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

OUR PARKS, OUR FUTURE.



OUR PARKS
OUR FUTURE



AUSTIN PARKS & RECREATION
LONG RANGE PLAN

2018 - 2028

[AUSTINTEXAS.GOV/AUSTINFUTUREPARKS](https://austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks)
[#AUSTINFUTUREPARKS](https://twitter.com/austinfutureparks)



AUSTIN
PARKS
FOUNDATION



IN COLLABORATION WITH:

GO COLLABORATIVE, ADISA COMMUNICATIONS, PROS CONSULTING INC,
STUDIO BALCONES, THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND, ETC INSTITUTE



Runners in Austin. Source: PARD.

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I. INTRODUCTION

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FOR OUR PARKS, OUR FUTURE

The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) is developing an update to the Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities, and Programs for the Austin park system, Our Parks, Our Future. The Long Range Plan is developed every 10 years and provides a blueprint to guide land acquisition, capital improvements, and the development of programs and new amenities. The City of Austin's leadership, staff, and partners are committed to involving the community in planning and decision making through a variety of means including in-person meetings, ongoing informal conversations, and the use of technology.

PARD MISSION

PARD's mission is to inspire Austin to learn, play, protect and connect by creating diverse programs and experiences in sustainable natural spaces and public places.

PARD provides community and recreation services, facility and park maintenance, and planning facility construction, and oversees more than 20,000 acres of land.

LRP PLANNING PROCESS GOALS



CREATE A VISION FOR AUSTIN'S PARK SYSTEM IN 2028

This effort will focus on engaging the community and city staff to define a new vision that is both inspirational and achievable.



GUIDE FUTURE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

As Austin continues to grow and change, the Long Range Plan will provide a careful analysis and guidebook for how and where to invest to ensure a world-class park system.



DEVELOP STRATEGIES, ACTIONS, AND PRIORITIES

The Long Range Plan will provide citywide strategies and priorities to inform the Capital Improvement Program and development of Park Master Plans.

OUR PARKS
OUR FUTURE



AUSTIN PARKS & RECREATION
LONG RANGE PLAN

2018 - 2028

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2.

ENGAGEMENT GOALS, METRICS & OUTCOMES

As the city's blueprint for new and improved parkland and recreation in Austin for the next ten years, it is critical that Austin PARD staff hear from as many people as possible while the plan is being developed. In addition, the planning horizon of 2028 presents an exciting opportunity for storytelling and celebrating Austin's park system, as it coincides with the 100-year anniversary of city's Parks and Recreation Department, which was created in February 1928.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GOALS

Within this context, the goals for community engagement include:

1. Create a fun, culturally sensitive, inclusive and engaging process that celebrates Austin's parks and recreation facilities and educates the community about the value of Austin parks and recreation;
2. Design a public engagement process that captures the public perception of current and future needs for the city's park system and results in the development of the Parks and Recreation core values and Long Range Plan priorities;
3. Involve a wide range of ages, races, ethnicities and hard-to-reach residents in the plan by providing multiple ways for the public to engage, including variety in location and timing of events; and providing opportunities for engagement to happen within the context of a person's everyday activities.
4. Involve PARD employees from various divisions in community engagement to provide perspective on the various programs that PARD provides; help PARD staff understand resident needs and priorities; and assist in developing the core values and priorities for the Plan.

As community engagement activities are planned, they will be tied back to the goals of the Public Engagement Plan.

METRICS TO EVALUATE OUTREACH & EQUITY

The primary methods PARD and the consultant team will use to evaluate success include: asking participants to provide their demographic information through surveys and assessing how well the planning process is reaching Austin's less engaged, hard-to-reach populations.

The following metrics will be used to evaluate the effective reach of promotion efforts:

- Number of mentions in local and alternative news outlets
- Website hits and downloads of educational materials or reports
- Social media share of Our Parks, Our Future content
- Engagement on NextDoor and SpeakUp Austin
- A minimum of 1,000 survey responses from geographically diverse areas of the city
- Engagement and general awareness of PARD employees and partners

For all public meetings, events and surveys, the following metrics will be used to evaluate the equity of participation:

- Number of people who attend meetings or events throughout the life of project
- The range of zip codes of participants
- The age range of participants (when available)
- The race and ethnicity range of participants (when available)
- Statistically Valid Survey Results (representative of Austin's demographics) with a minimum of 800 completed surveys
- A minimum of 1,000 completed online survey responses
- A minimum of 500 new interest list sign-ups
- Level of participation from those with limited English proficiency
- Results of survey / feedback on process (e.g., public meeting comment card)

DESIRED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

Outcomes of a successful public engagement process include:

1. Participation that is representative of Austin's demographics (e.g., homeowners/renters; race and ethnicity; age; geographic location) and numbers into the thousands;
2. Involvement at key stages with the City of Austin Equity Office staff and application of the equity analysis tool (specifically Box 4: Community Engagement) leading up to and following each planning summit, to ensure communities of color have been actively and effectively engaged in the LRP process;
3. At the end of the planning process, more residents have learned about and participated in their parks through enjoyable and engaging experiences that help them to develop a deeper understanding about the parks system and the role parks play in peoples' lives";
4. The LRP is an easy-to-use and meaningful document, which provides clear guidance and priorities for PARD staff and the public, and includes a clear picture of the input received from the community and the plan's vision, strategies, and priorities; and
5. Development of a public engagement process, including messaging and educational materials, that helps define the planning process as a model for the City of Austin and other cities across the country.

3. OUTREACH EFFORTS

A key part of the outreach effort is building a comprehensive stakeholder list. The contact database developed by Austin PARD, the Community Engagement Advisory Committee (CEAC), and consultant team-member Adisa Communications will be informed regularly of public meetings and project updates. This stakeholder list will be supplemented by and regularly updated to include survey participants, as well as those who sign up for updates online and as the public engagement process progresses.

DIGITAL MEDIA

Digital outreach efforts were designed to promote all opportunities for public involvement on the project and to comply with the city's Digital Inclusion strategy. Reporting by Council District to potentially identify ways in which we can expand the social media reach (e.g., through libraries, neighborhood organizations, community connectivity sites).

Austin Future Parks Website

The project website provides the public with a one-stop-shop for information on all project components, a schedule of the LRP activities and updates, as well as materials including draft documents, frequently asked questions, public notices, and links to related websites. The website includes presentations, surveys and other exercises from the various meetings for those individuals who are unable to attend in person. A direct email is also provided for residents to submit questions or comments and requests for additional information.

Eblasts

Eblasts are sent out via email to the entire contact database to inform community members of the open houses, surveys, and other events as scheduled. These are distributed through email communications to be both efficient and broad reaching. PARD distributed e-blasts as needed (e.g. in advance of all planning summits and pop-up events) to promote event attendance and increase awareness of the planning process.

Social Media

Social media provides an efficient and accessible method of reaching a large cross-section of residents. PARD regularly posts and maintains content and updates on social media sites, including Twitter, Facebook, and NextDoor. The project hashtag for use on Twitter and other tagging-enabled sites is: #AustinFutureParks. A social media project kit is shared with the CEAC and PARD partners to expand the reach beyond the PARD audience, and to personally engage with community members.

Speak-Up Austin

PARD created an Our Parks, Our Future Long Range Plan SpeakUp Austin! page that links to the project website and includes discussions and posts on topics related to the LRP. The SpeakUp page was used to create a virtual meeting space tied to the first round of community open house meetings. It also served as the landing page for the online survey and will be used in upcoming rounds of community input.

NEWS MEDIA & ADVERTISING

Local news stories are essential to informing and educating the public. The PARD media team provides ongoing media briefings and press releases with the project's background, process, goals and objectives, and information about how to get involved. Efforts to inform the media happen in advance of and during each of the planning summits and at project milestones. Minority media and alternative news sources, like El Mundo and the Villager, are included in the project's distribution of information and materials. To encourage participation in the Our Parks, Our Future online survey, PARD placed CapMetro bus ads, radio ads, and print ads, including a survey link through text number.

PRINT MEDIA: FLYERS, POSTERS & POSTCARDS

Flyers, posters, and postcards are used to inform community members of the planning process, meetings, surveys, and other events. Not every resident has access to or uses social media and email regularly. Flyers and posters help to bridge the digital divide. Flyers were distributed before every community meeting in locations near the meeting site. Posters and signs were placed at meeting locations, in nearby locations, and in PARD facilities. All meeting flyers are produced in English and Spanish, and other languages are included based on population area. Project postcards are available at events throughout the planning process. Signage advertising the online survey was placed at all facilities and parks.



THE FUTURE OF AUSTIN'S PARKS

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) is embarking on a long-range planning effort to guide the development and growth of Austin's park system. PARD's Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities and Programs (LRP) is developed every 10 years and provides a blueprint to guide land acquisition, capital improvements and the development of programs and new amenities.

TAKE PART IN OUR FUTURE

For more information and to get involved, visit austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks.

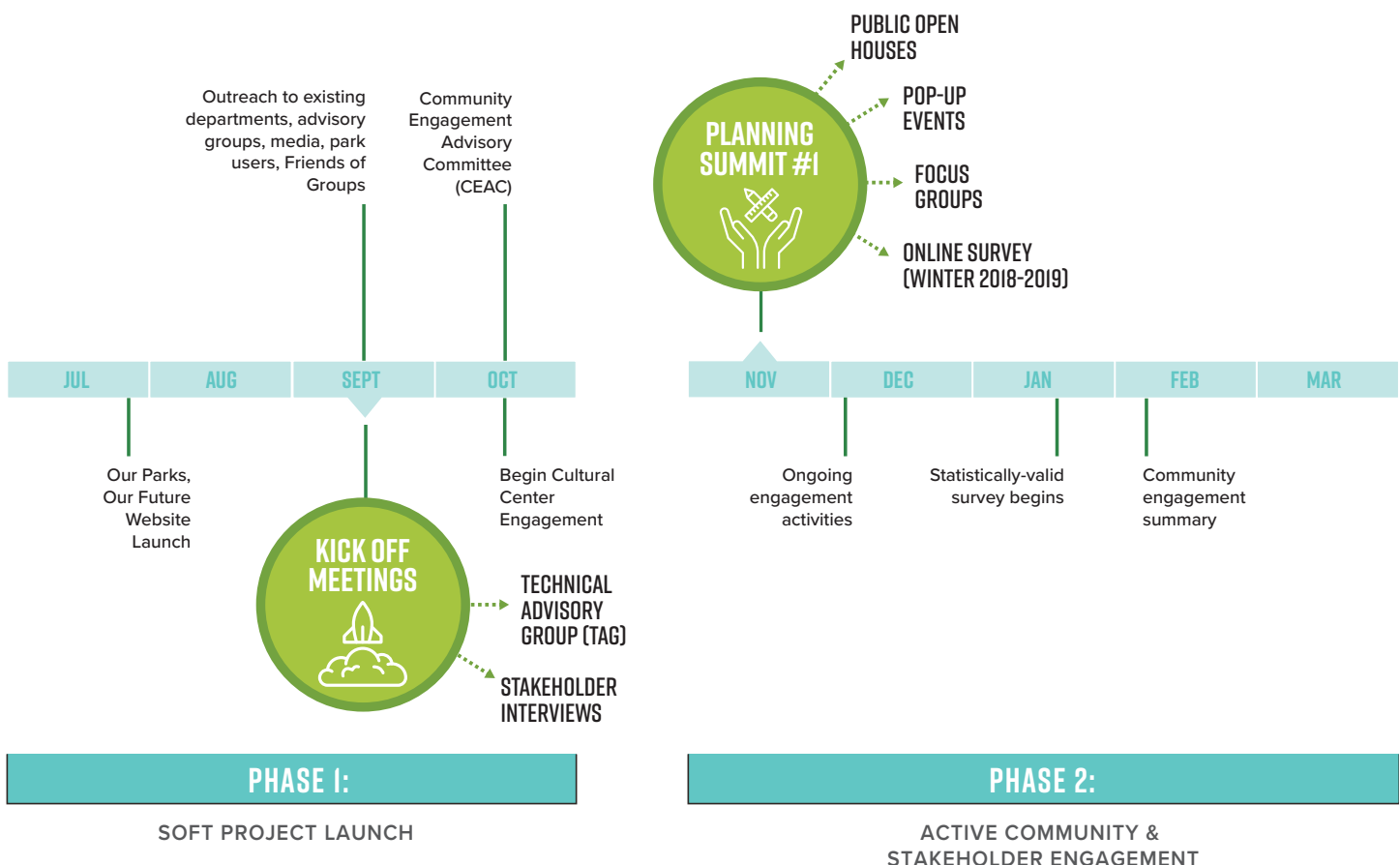


Promotional Banner, Sign, and Postcard.

4. PHASES & TYPES OF ENGAGEMENT

SURVEYS

To ensure broad participation beyond those that can attend in-person meetings, several types of surveys are included: online citywide survey; a randomly selected statistically valid survey; and an audio survey of cultural center users. Information and results from all surveys will be shared with the community at large and used to inform the reporting of the Austin community needs and priorities for use in the plan development.



MEETINGS

Planning Summits 1 and 2 each include five community meetings to ensure geographic and scheduling diversity and gather input and feedback. Planning Summit 3 will include one to two community meetings - draft plan conversations - to review the plan recommendations and actions. A minimum of 12 community meetings will be held throughout the process. The process also includes meetings with several key groups to help inform and guide the process throughout: Core Group (PARD), Technical Advisory Committee (TAG), and the Community Engagement Advisory Committee (CEAC), described in the following section.

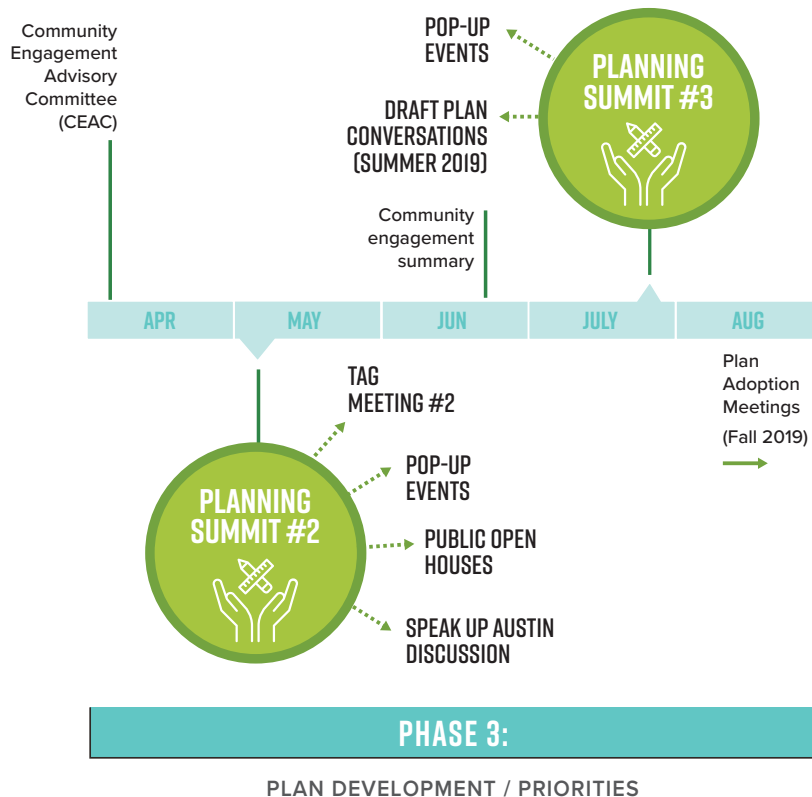
POP-UP EVENTS

These quick engagement stations take advantage of existing events or highly trafficked locations (e.g., parks, grocery stores) to supplement the community meeting series and broaden the geographic and scheduling reach of public engagement. Pop-Ups are modeled after the community meetings and are intended to engage a broader audience and meet people where they already are.

FOCUS GROUPS

As part of the outreach, the WRT team is conducting five focus groups to engage a demographically diverse group of people in guided discussions. The specific groups to be engaged will be based on input from PARD, the CEAC (at their first meeting in September), and other stakeholders as the process evolves.

In addition, the project team is conducting group interviews as part of each round of engagement. Groups include both city and non-city staff and have been organized around topic areas, e.g., maintenance and operations, community partnerships, recreation, programs, mobility and trails, and community health and wellness.



Engagement Phases Timeline.

ADVISORY BODIES

CORE TEAM

The LRP Core Team consists of PARD leadership and staff from across the department who are closely involved in the planning process and implementation of the LRP. The Core Team meets monthly to review materials and provide guidance and direction to the consultant team.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CEAC)

The role of the Community Engagement Advisory Committee (CEAC) is to help guide the outreach, serve as ambassadors of Our Parks, Our Future planning process, identify strategies to engage hard to reach groups, and assist PARD in sharing information about the process and plan with the community. The CEAC met for the first time in October 2018 and assisted PARD with identifying outreach strategies, adding to the stakeholder database, and supporting the overall social media engagement. The CEAC will meet prior to Planning Summit 2 to review and provide feedback on meeting content, logistics, and engagement strategies..



Community Garden. Source: PARD.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (TAG)

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is a diverse group of representatives of various City departments including PARD divisions, Transportation, Public Works, Public Health, Watershed Protection, Real Estate Services, Planning and Zoning, Office of Sustainability, Office of Equity, among others. The TAG met for the first time as part of the project kickoff in September 2018 and will meet again as part of Planning Summit 2.



Technical advisory group (TAG) Kick-Off Discussions. Source: WRT.

5. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES TO DATE

The LRP Public Engagement Plan includes a more detailed description of all plan goals, anticipated outcomes, engagement and outreach activities. The following summary provides an overview of the events that have occurred to date, and will be updated as we move through the process.

1. KICK-OFF EVENTS & GETTING ORGANIZED
2. COMMUNITY MEETING SERIES #1
3. POP-UP SERIES #1
4. ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEY
5. FOCUS GROUPS & INTERVIEWS
6. CULTURAL FACILITY AUDIO SURVEY
7. STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY
8. COMMUNITY MEETING SERIES #2
9. POP-UP SERIES # 2
10. COMMUNITY MEETING SERIES #3
11. POP-UP SERIES #3

KICK-OFF EVENTS & GETTING ORGANIZED

PHASE ONE

PURPOSE & OVERVIEW

PARD and the consultant team, led by WRT, held a two-day series of meetings, interviews, and tours to officially kickoff the planning process, 9/20/18 and 9/21/18. The kickoff events included a group tour of park and recreation facilities, the first meeting of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) with representatives from departments across the city, a public engagement strategy session, and a series of WRT-led interviews with PARD divisions and park partners. Stakeholders included PARD operations and maintenance staff, AISD and other schoolyard parks and partnerships, and partners including Austin Parks Foundation, Downtown Austin Alliance, GAVA, Stronger Austin, and Travis County.

WHERE & WHEN

Park Tour and PARD Offices
September 20-20, 2018



Kick-Off Park Tour. Source: WRT.



Park Tour Highlights. Source: WRT.

COMMUNITY MEETING SERIES #1

PHASE ONE

189
PARTICIPANTS

PURPOSE & OVERVIEW

This series of five open houses focused on the question “what do our parks mean to you?” and consisted of stations manned by the consultant team and local stakeholders that described the existing parks and recreation resources in the city, explained the planning process and the LRP’s importance, and solicited feedback on:

- Current strengths, deficiencies, opportunities, and challenges
- Facility and program priorities
- Budget priorities and trade-offs (e.g., “money game”)
- Park and recreation future vision

WHERE & WHEN

George Washington Carver Museum

1165 Angelina Street
November 8, 2018, 6pm-8pm

Northwest Recreation Center

2913 Northland Drive
November 10, 2018, 11am-1pm

Gustavo “Gus” L. Garcia Recreation Center

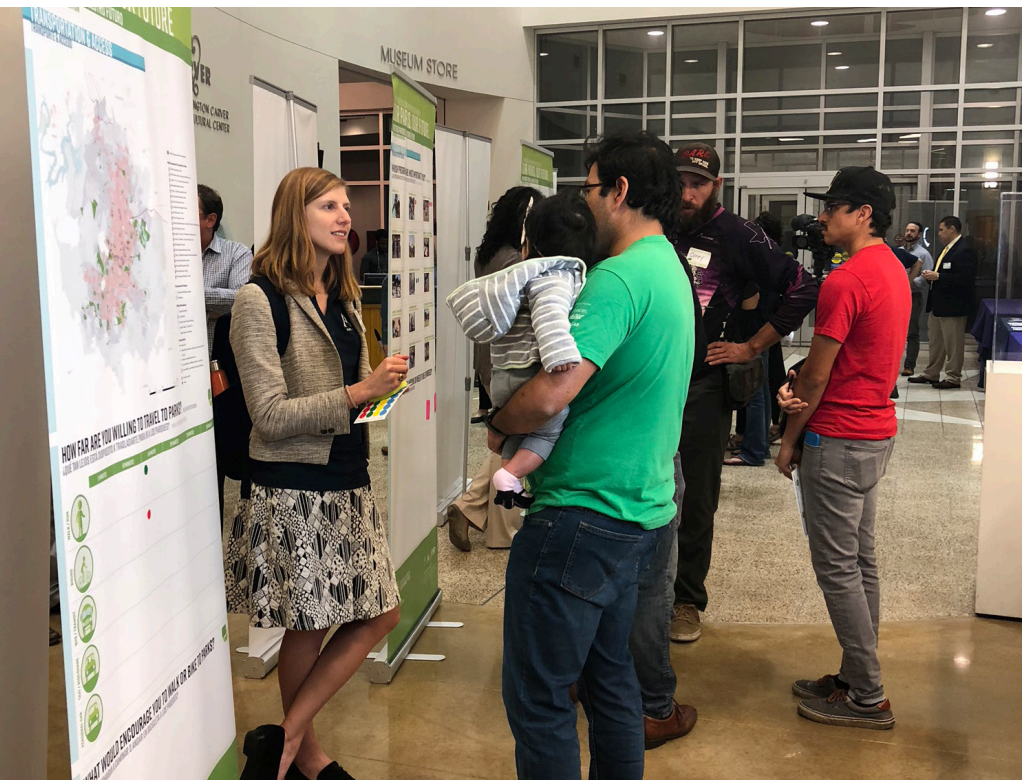
1201 E Rundberg Lane
November 10, 2018,, 3pm-5pm

Dittmar Recreation Center

1009 W Dittmar Road
November 13, 2018, 6pm-8pm

Fiesta Gardens Building

2101 Jesse E. Segovia Street
November 14, 2018, 6pm-8pm



Community Meeting at George Washington Carver Museum. Source: WRT.

WHAT WE HEARD

Summary of top responses (for all participants, not individual meeting locations):

Favorite Parks:

- Zilker Metropolitan Park
- Metz Neighborhood Park
- Roy Guereño Colorado River Park
- Barton Creek Greenbelt
- Circle C Metropolitan Park
- Gustavo “Gus” L. Garcia Recreation Center

What You Love About Austin Parks/

What Austin Parks Do Well:

- Trails, variety in trails
- Nature
- Maintenance of facilities, parks and vegetation - always clean.
- Sports programming (Basketball, volleyball, swimming, Disc Golf)
- Spread throughout the city
- Disc golf and multi-use courts
- Programs/Activities offered, Accessible events

Facility Types That Are Most Important to You:

- Nature Trails
- Pools & Water Features
- Natural Areas/Preserves
- Community Gardens
- Cultural/Historic Art Center

Programs Most Important to You:

- Outdoor Recreation
- Aquatics
- Stewardship Services (Adopt-a-Park/Trail)
- Arts & Culture
- Health & Fitness
- Senior Programs & Services

How Far You Are Willing to Travel to Parks (on average):

- Walk/Run: 15 minutes
- Biking: 20 minutes
- Personal Car: 30 minutes
- Transit: 30 minutes
- Taxi/Ride Share: 15 minutes

What Would Encourage You to Walk or Bike to Parks:

- More connected trails/bike lanes off streets
- Local or within 1 mile
- Improved neighborhood sidewalks and crosswalks
- Disc Golf (Closer access to disc golf courses, Put 9-hole disc golf courses at small parks)

How Austin Parks Can Improve:

OVERALL

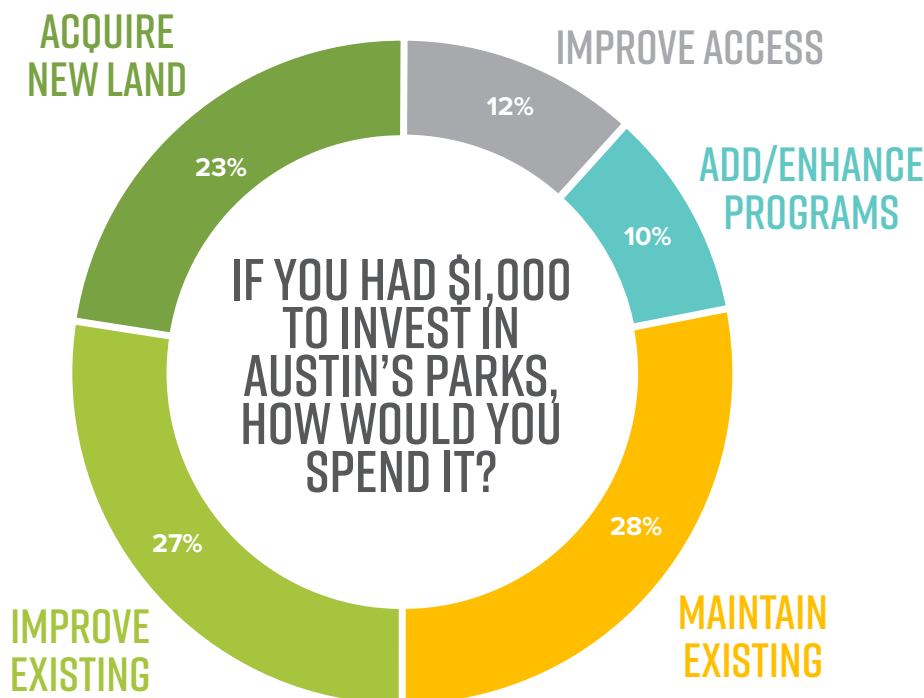
- Better, More Consistent Year-round Maintenance & Repair Programs for buildings, vegetation and infrastructure
- Disc Golf Improvements (More courses, Add safer crossings)
- Expanding Programming (More water stations/pads, dog parks, utilities for large events, educational classes)
- Promotion/Outreach/Education
- Trail/Path Improvements & Purpose/Mode Separations (ADA accessibility/paths, better access into parks)

FACILITIES

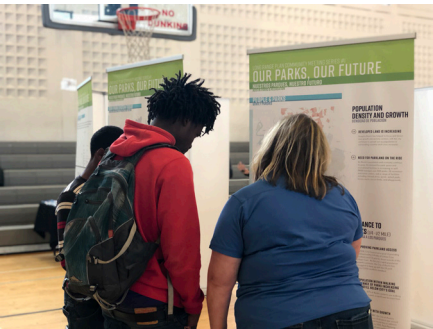
- Disc Golf (More and improved courses, disc golf tournament)
- Trail Improvements (add separate bike/hike trails, repair throughout city, better signage)
- Maintenance (on invasive species, repair infrastructure, bathrooms)
- More Neighborhood Parks

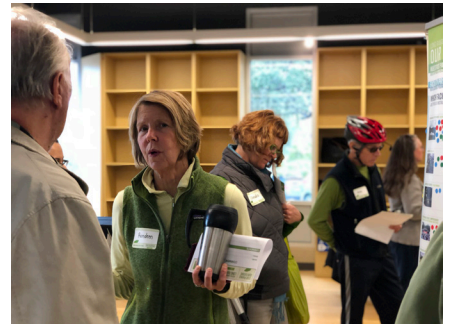
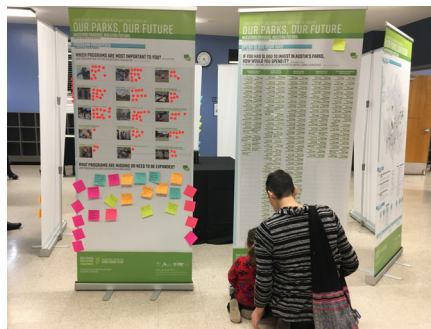
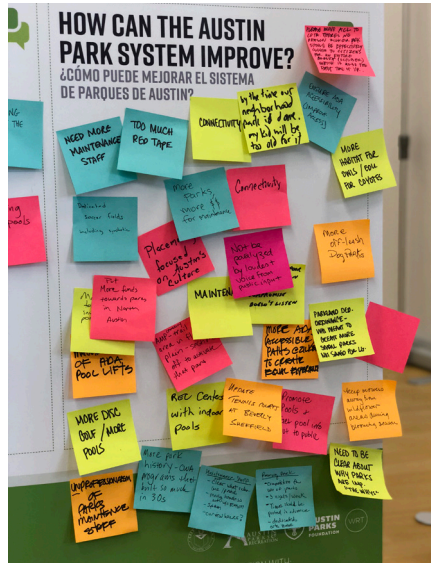
PROGRAMS

- Athletic/Sports Facilities (Multi-use/Bike polo courts, tennis courts)
- Programming for Special Populations (Youth Sports programs, fitness classes/section for women)
- Streamline the process for arranging events in Austin Parks



Community Meeting Series #1 Money Game Results.





POP-UP SERIES #1

140+
SURVEYS
COMPLETED

12
LOCAL EVENTS
ATTENDED

PHASE ONE

PURPOSE & OVERVIEW

PARD staff and consultant team member Adisa Communications, led pop-ups as a part of existing events or highly trafficked locations (e.g., libraries, farmers markets). These pop-ups took place in December of 2018 and January of 2019 and were designed to not only share information about the PARD Long Range Plan, but also to promote and extend the impact of the Community Series #1 by engaging residents and stakeholders outside of the meeting setting and encouraging more continuous, ongoing participation in the planning effort between meetings.

At the pop-ups, community members were greeted and provided with a fact sheet and one-page handout as well as PARD giveaways and additional Long Range Plan materials. Paper surveys and a tablet/computer were available to collect input for those interested. The money game board used as part of the first meeting series also proved an effective and concise way to gather input. Participants either completed the survey on site or were asked to complete the survey at a more convenient time.



LBJ Wildflower Center Pop-Up with Money Game. Source: WRT.

WHERE & WHEN

Walter E. Long Master Plan Meeting #4

Decker Middle School
8104 Decker Lane
December 4, 2018, 6pm – 8pm
Est. Attendance: 70

Jingle Booze (The Thinkery)*

1830 Simond Avenue
December 6, 2018, 7pm – 10pm
Est. Attendance: 600

Asian American Resource Center Master Plan Meeting #1

8401 Cameron Road
December 11, 2018, 6pm – 8pm
Est. Attendance: 50

* Indicates Adisa Communications attended; all others staffed by PARD

Movies in the Park

Zilker Park

December 13, 2018, 6pm – 8pm

Est. Attendance: 200

SFC Farmers Market at Sunset Valley*

3200 Jones Road

December 15, 2018, 9am – 1pm

Est. Attendance: 100

MT Supermarket

10901 N Lamar Boulevard G

January 5, 2019, 10am – 2pm

Est. Attendance: 100

YMCA Mobile Market

YMCA of East Austin Branch

5315 Ed Bluestein Boulevard

January 10, 2019, 4pm – 7pm

Est. Attendance: 100

TownLake YMCA

1100 W Cesar Chavez Street

January 19, 2019, 10am – 1pm

Est. Attendance: 150

Howson Branch Library*

2500 Exposition Boulevard

January 12, 2019, 11am – 1pm

Est. Attendance: 10

Spicewood Springs Branch Library*

8637 Spicewood Springs Road

January 12, 2019, 2pm – 4:45pm

Est. Attendance: 12

MLK Community Festival

MLK Statue at The University of
Texas at Austin

Speedway & Inner Campus Drive

January 21, 2019, 9am – 2pm

Est. Attendance: 300

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower* Center

4801 La Crosse Avenue

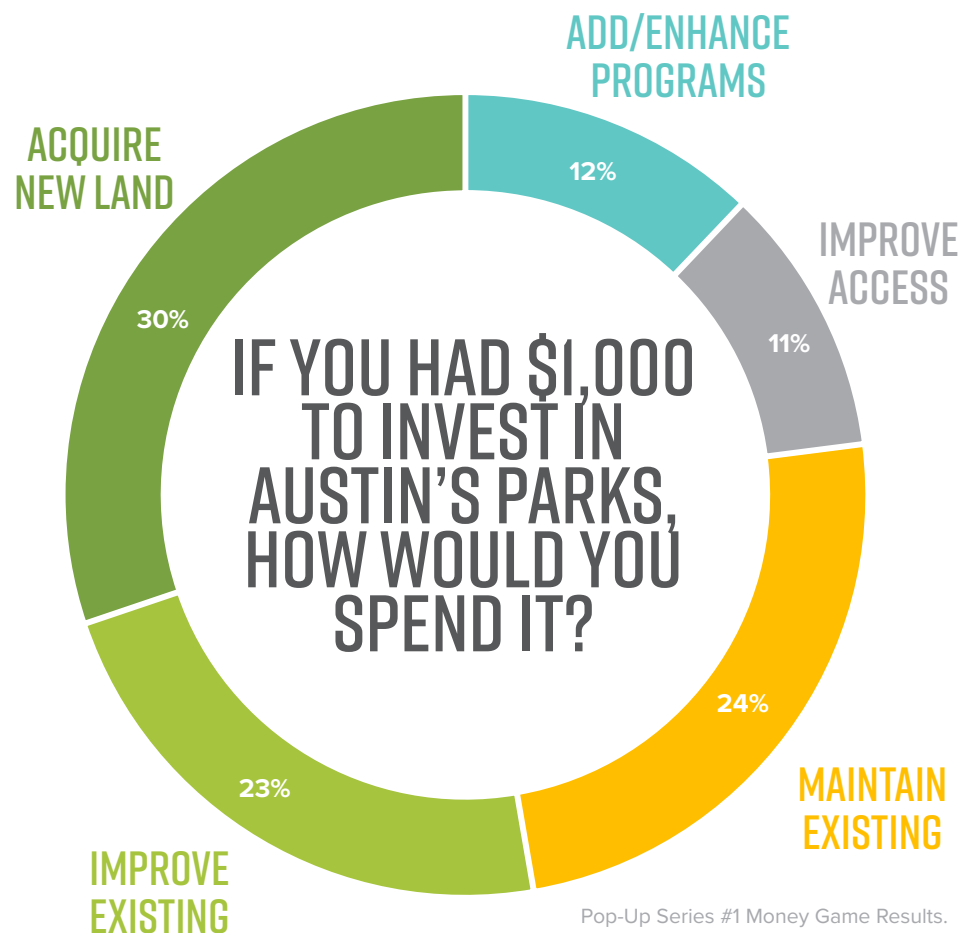
DATE, Time

Est. Attendance: 68



Residents completing PARD Community Surveys at MLK Community Festival Pop-Up. Source: PARD.

WHAT WE HEARD



ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEY

PHASE ONE

4,400+
PARTICIPANTS

9,000+
COMMENTS
RECEIVED

This plan used two different types of surveys to achieve different but related goals. The first, the Online Community Survey, was designed as an explorative tool for more open-ended feedback that could shape the themes and focus of the plan, while the second, the Statistically Valid Survey, was designed as a more precise tool to prioritize investment and ensure results were representative of resident needs and desires at multiple geographic scales.

The online LRP survey opened following the first round of community meetings and provided an additional forum for participation. PARD advertised the survey through pop-up events, flyers, email blasts and social media, signage, and ads on Capital Metro buses and media/radio. The survey was designed to help the consultant team understand the current interests and needs of the community related to parks and recreational facilities, and included questions related to frequency of park use, how a person gets to or would like to get to their parks, and the types of programs and amenities they would like to see in future parks. The survey allowed for open ended comments, was provided in multiple languages, and received almost 9,000 comments.

HOW WE GOT THE WORD OUT



WEB

Social media,
e-blasts, Texts



PRINT

Flyers, lawn
signs



MEDIA

Cap metro &
media/ radio
ads

WHO TOOK THE SURVEY



FAMILY SIZE

42% live in a
2-person household



AGE

46% are 35-54
years old

TENURE

29% have lived in
Austin for 30+ years

28% have lived in
Austin for less than
10 years



49%
VISIT PARKS
WEEKLY

21%
VISIT PARKS
MONTHLY

16%
VISIT PARKS
DAILY

WHAT DO YOU VALUE?

- #1 (NATURAL) BEAUTY
- #2 PLACES TO CONNECT TO NATURE
- #3 CLEANLINESS
- #4 Easy to get to
- #5 Safety
- #6 Places to exercise or be active
- #7 Quiet places and places to relax

WHAT KEEPS YOU FROM USING PARKS?

- #1 CRIME OR SAFETY CONCERNS
- #2 NO PARKS OR FACILITIES CLOSE TO HOME
- #3 PARKS APPEAR DEGRADED, IN POOR CONDITION
- #4 Inadequate parking
- #5 Presence of people experiencing homelessness
- #6 Lack of lighting
- #7 Parks & facilities do not appear clean
- #8 Lack of awareness of what programs are offered
- #9 Operating hours / length of season too short

WHAT PROGRAMS WOULD KEEP YOU AT A PARK MORE?

38% ARTS & CULTURE

12% FITNESS & SPORTS

24% GROUP GATHERINGS

12% NATURE PROGRAMS

WHAT PARKS DO YOU VISIT OUTSIDE OF AUSTIN?

28% VISIT TRAVIS COUNTY PARKS

17% VISIT LCRA PARKS

DESIRES FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS...

AMENITIES

- Nature trails for hiking and walking
- Natural areas & preserves
- Multi-purpose trails (walking, running, hiking, mountain biking)

FACILITIES

- Nature centers
- Multi-generational community recreation centers
- Community centers for recreation, art & culture

PROGRAMS

- Aquatic
- Gardening
- Group Exercise

YOUTH PROGRAMS

- Summer camps (nature-based)
- Youth environmental education
- Summer camps (adventure)

MOST FREQUENTLY VISITED PARKS

NEIGHBORHOOD/SCHOOL/POCKET PARK 1,906 Respondents

A.B. DITTMAR PARK



6%

BRENTWOOD PARK



5%

BARTON HILLS PARK



5%

DISTRICT/METROPOLITAN PARK 2,098 Respondents

ZILKER PARK



21%

WALNUT CREEK PARK



10%



10%

GREENBELT / GREENWAY 1,762 Respondents

BARTON CREEK



45%

SHOAL CREEK



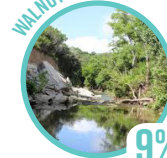
10%

BULL CREEK



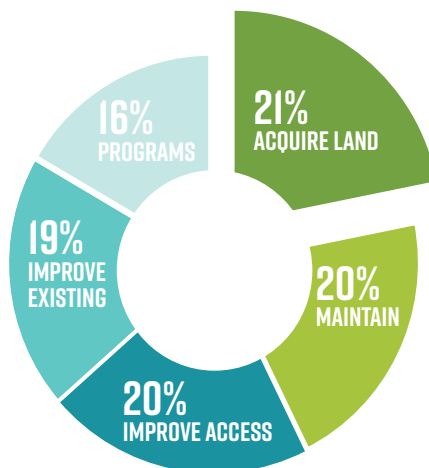
9%

WALNUT CREEK



9%

INVESTMENT PRIORITIES



FOCUS GROUPS & INTERVIEWS

PHASE ONE

PURPOSE & OVERVIEW

As part of the insight gathering process, the GO collaborative team conducted a series of five focus groups and interviews in March through June 2019 to gather a deeper understanding about some key issues that the Parks and Recreation Department knows will be of community-wide interest in the future. The subjects for these engagements include: Parks Usage for Seniors, Dog Parks, Untapped Minority Youth Engagement, and Accessibility. Focus groups were held for each topic at different park facility locations. For the senior audiences additional interviews are being held with seniors who do not currently access the city's senior centers and other park amenities in order to more fully understand how the city can better serve that particular audience of users.

Specific individuals were initially recommended by PARD staff members and were contacted on an individual basis by email. When appropriate, supporting organizations or advocacy groups also helped with specific recommendations, and with delivering announcements about any upcoming focus groups through their social media channels.

Once individuals were confirmed, the groups (ranging from six-seven per group) gathered for a ninety-minute conversation where participants introduced themselves and worked through a series of questions that looked to identify the central opportunities and barriers around the central topic.

WHERE & WHEN

Dog Park Advocates
Austin Recreation Center
March 6, 2019 / Attendees: 7

Active Seniors
Lamar Senior Center
March 7, 2019 / Attendees: 6

Accessibility Advocates
Austin Recreation Center
March 7, 2019 / Attendees: 7

Untapped Youth Advocacy Organizations
Montopolis Recreation Center
March 26, 2019

Senior (Non-Park Users)
Multiple Dates

School for the Blind & School for the Deaf
May 23, 2019 / Attendees: 8
June 7, 2019 / Attendees: 4

WHAT WE HEARD

Summary of top themes from the focus group discussions include:

Dog Park Advocates:

- Appreciation of growth in understanding around dog parks in last decade
- Need to continue to upgrade and maintain facilities over time (e.g., safety of dogs and owners through: double entry gates, water features, cooling zones)
- Group interest in a dog sports center (amenity that could require user fees)
- Support for and focus on important role of signage / communication around dog safety (e.g., body language, when is it safe to approach a dog)
- Consider offering classes at the dog parks themselves (or other locations) to help with the many needed dimensions of community education – from “How to be a Good Dog Owner”, to “How to be with Dogs in Public” - similar to how community education offerings are at libraries and recreation centers.

Active Seniors:

- Appreciation and recognition of the wealth of assets-- trails, parks, and programming
- Need to keep increasing accessibility to parks by public transit and keep parks accessible with wheelchair accessible trails
- Potential to add multi-generational spaces to increase interaction between different age groups and foster

connections

- Consider adding more enhanced facilities, such as more shaded rest spots, more restrooms, and segregated speeds on active trails

Non-active seniors

- Similar needs to that of active seniors, but to a greater extent
- While enhanced facilities may not be a necessity for active seniors, those same enhanced facilities (shaded rest spots, restrooms, etc.) determines whether parks accessible for non-active seniors

Accessibility Advocates:

- PARD should consider accessibility by first asking questions such as “What is the experience when people of disabilities get to parks,” “How will they need to plan ahead,” and “is wayfinding possible for people of all abilities”
- Group recognition that the “door-to-door” experience and universal design (design that considers use and experience of users of all abilities) is a critical aspect to make parks welcoming for all, anywhere from trail navigation to bathroom access to inclusive wayfinding
- Interest in using tech to solve some accessibility issues (e.g. audio systems for the blind)
- General enthusiasm for more sensory playscapes and pocket parks, which can increase spatial equity

Untapped Youth Advocacy

Organizations:

- Need to improve facilities to address core concern of accessibility in every dimension,

whether mobility infrastructure or cultural accessibility; this may include “in between” spaces, safe spaces, nursing rooms, and physically accessible spaces

- Focus on specific routes taken by youth to address park accessibility/connectivity and explore combining with safe-routes-to-school efforts
- Desire for better communication and administrative processes to increase sense of accessibility, such as bi-lingual signage, hiring staff from adjacent neighborhoods, more communication about what is available in all parks, improved process for groups trying to reserve PARD spaces

School for the Blind and School for the Deaf:

- Essential to recognize universal design as a critical element for an equitable and inclusive parks system
- Primary need for both groups is to hire an accessibility-design specialist to create a series of design guidelines
- Specific recommendations for the blind & deaf communities include more accessible wayfinding, amenities, and general urban design (e.g. tactile map, auditory locators like windchimes, visual aids, captioning at park events, sensory playscapes, and designated spots for MetroAccess)

CULTURAL FACILITY AUDIO SURVEY

PHASE ONE

88
PARTICIPANTS

PURPOSE & OVERVIEW

Consultant team-member, GO collaborative conducted an arts-based engagement activity intended to bring a deeper understanding of the role PARD Cultural facilities play in the lives of their users. The team interviewed Austin residents at eight city cultural facility sites, and results from the conversations will inform the development of the LRP. A local Austin-based sound is creating an “audio compendium” as a sampling of comments to be available to the larger project for education and promotional purposes.

The survey results and audio clips are being processed and this section will be updated as they are completed.

WHERE

Asian American Resource Center

October 6, 2018 / Interviews: 15

Elisabet Ney Museum

October 28, 2018 / Interviews: 14

George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center

November 3, 2018 / Interviews: 6

Dougherty Arts Center

November 14, 2018 / Interviews: 7
March 4, 2019 / Interviews: 11

Old Bakery and Emporium

March 6, 2019 / Interviews: 6

Brush Square Museums

March 31, 2019 / Interviews: 5

Emma S. Barrientos - Mexican American Cultural Center

March 31, 2019 / Interviews: 14

Zilker Hillside Theater

May 19, 2019 / Interviews: 10



George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, Source: PARD.

WHAT WE HEARD

Summary of top themes from the cultural facility survey include:

Asian American Resource Center (AARC)

- Participants see the AARC as an important place to remember and celebrate heritage and to cultivate community among Asians and non-Asians
- Recognition that elders play an important role and need to provide these spaces for them to socialize, learn, and stay active
- Consider expanding the language program (ESL classes) and offering other language classes

Elisabet Ney Museum

- Overall appreciation for the affordable and diverse (and sometimes niche) programming
- Amenities of Shippe Park and the museum's open space allows it to become a neighborhood gathering space
- Interviewees highlight the museum's importance as a beacon to Texas women, art, and history and the need to keep celebrating that
- While interviewees generally felt the museum did not need to change, small improvements could include distinguishing museum space versus park space, holding events/discussion around the confederate sculptures, and explore potential renovation

George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center

- Like the AARC, the Carver is an important anchor and community gathering space for the active African American community and their events/programs
- Could add a community garden for health/education purposes as well as more advertising for the rich programming and events to draw more attendance

Dougherty Arts Center

- Participants value the arts center, which provides community members with a variety of spaces to engage creatively with their own work as well as with each other
- Participants also praise the affordability and accessibility at the Dougherty
- Potential improvements include facility renovations, longer hours, and even exploring offshoots of the Dougherty throughout the city

Old Bakery and Emporium

- The Old Bakery and its senior program serve as a community for creative seniors, while allowing them to engage with visitors
- No significant improvements were suggested, except for more resources

Brush Square Museums

- Need to preserve and expand knowledge of Texas's history through the Brush Square Museums (similar to the Elisabet Ney Museum)
- Appreciation for the presence of these museums in the heart of downtown
- Potential for more youth engagement and education

Emma S. Barrientos- Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC)

- MACC viewed by participants as one of the only spaces that recognizes, celebrates, and represents Mexican American, Latino, Spanish-speaking cultures. It is also seen as a welcoming place for families
- Participants recognize that many of the community members MACC is trying to serve are being pushed out and there is a need to continue building out the original master plan and keep supporting the Mexican American community
- Could increase more parking and public transit accessibility, as well as more programming (e.g. outdoor sculpture garden, weekday evening programming, more advertising, academic lectures)

Zilker Hillside Theater

- Zilker Hillside Theater is a community anchor where people come regularly, especially during the summer to enjoy culture in a park
- Need to preserve it as it is to ensure future success

STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY

925
PARTICIPANTS

PHASE ONE & TWO

PURPOSE & OVERVIEW

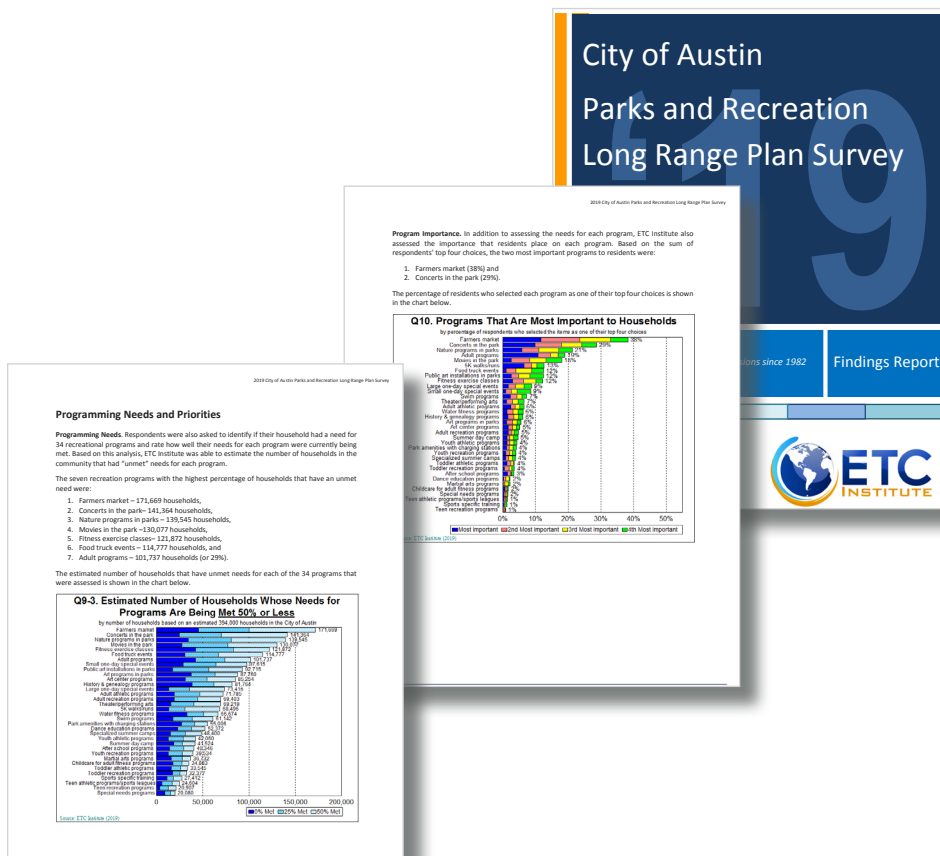
This survey was administered by ETC Institute via telephone, mail, and internet and was translated as needed in order to capture with a degree of certainty the needs and priorities of all residents in the city—not just those who choose to participate in other forms of engagement. This survey was designed to validate and complement other engagement through the use of more in-depth questions. The statistically valid survey continued until it had achieved a 95% confidence interval for all results at the citywide and combined planning area level. A total of 925 residents completed the survey. The overall results for the sample of 925 households have a precision of at least +/- 3.22 at the 95% level of confidence.

WHEN

January 2019 - March 2019

METHOD

ETC Institute mailed a survey packet to a random sample of households in the City of Austin. Each survey packet contained a cover letter, a copy of the survey, and a postage-paid return envelope. Residents who received the survey were given the option of returning the survey by mail or completing it online at www.AustinPARDSurvey.org. Ten days after the surveys were mailed, ETC Institute sent emails and placed phone calls to the households that received the survey to encourage participation. The emails contained a link to the online version of the survey to make it easy for residents to complete the survey. To prevent people who were not residents of the City of Austin from participating, everyone who completed the survey online was required to enter their home address prior to submitting the survey. If the address from a survey completed online did not match one of the addresses selected for the sample, the online survey was not counted.



RESULTS

Facility/Amenity Use, Ratings and Priorities

- 90% of households visited a PARD park or facility during the past year.
- 83% of households who visited a park or facility indicated that the condition of the parks/facilities they visited was either “excellent” or “good”

The four recreation amenities with the highest percentage of households that have an unmet need were:

1. Open spaces/nature parks preserve
2. Multi-purpose and nature trails
3. Community garden
4. Off-leash dog areas/parks

The two most important amenities to residents were multi-purpose and nature trails (57%) and open spaces/nature parks/preserves (42%).

Program Use, Ratings and Priorities

- 17% of households participated in a program offered by PARD during the past year.
- 90% of respondents who participated rated the programs their household participated in as either “excellent” or “good”

The seven recreation programs with the highest percentage of households that have an unmet need were:

1. Farmers market
2. Concerts in the park
3. Nature programs in parks
4. Movies in the park
5. Fitness exercise classes
6. Food truck events
7. Adult programs

The two most important programs to residents were farmers markets (38%) and concerts in the park (29%).

Information Sources

Seventy-three percent (73%) of respondents indicated that word of mouth is the way they learn about City of Austin programs, activities, and events. Only 29% of respondents indicated they used the City of Austin website and another 29% indicated they use newspapers. However, respondents indicated that Email (28%) or the PARD website (18%) are the most preferred information sources for programs, activities, and events.

Barriers to Usage and Participation

The biggest barriers to usage and participation were:

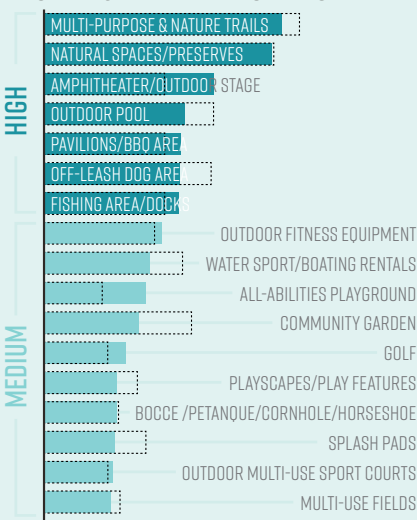
1. a lack of awareness of what programs are offered (69%)
2. inadequate parking at parks and facilities (61%)
3. the presence of people experiencing homelessness (54%)

EXAMPLE: PRIORITY NEEDS FOR SOUTHEAST

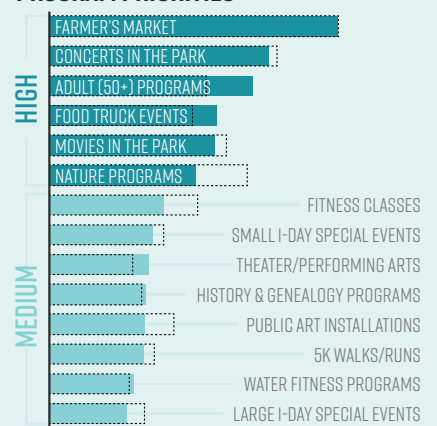
The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) System was developed by ETC Institute as an objective tool to evaluate the priority that should be placed on investments. The PIR equally weights the importance residents place on something and how many residents have unmet needs for that thing.

Using the PIR system for the statistically valid survey of residents of the Southeast Combined Planning Area, the following priorities emerged in this ranked order (compared against the citywide prioritization of the same elements, depicted in the black dashed outline).

FACILITY & AMENITY PRIORITIES



PROGRAM PRIORITIES



COMMUNITY MEETING SERIES #2

PHASE TWO

136+
PARTICIPANTS

PURPOSE & OVERVIEW

This series of five open houses in five council districts included results of the first round of community engagement, in addition to groupings of stations or themes discussing: current stats about the park system and benchmarking comparisons; growth and development trends; facility and amenities within the city's park system; and a look at how trends and conditions are dispersed geographically.

The associated pop-ups took place in May and June of 2019 and were designed to expand the reach of the community meetings. Additionally, a virtual version of the meeting took place after the conclusion of the in-person meeting series. The virtual meeting allowed people to view the meeting boards and presentation, and provide comments through Speak up Austin through June 10.

WHERE & WHEN

South Austin Senior Activity Center

3911 Manchaca Road
May 2, 2019, 6pm - 8pm

Anderson Mill Limited District Community Center

11500 El Salido Parkway
May 3, 2019, 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Circle C Community Center

7817 La Crosse Avenue
May 4, 2019, 10am - 12pm

IBPS Buddhist Temple/FGS Xiang Yun Temple

6720 N Capital of Texas Highway
May 4, 2019, 2pm - 4pm

Austin Recreation Center

1301 Shoal Creek Boulevard
May 4, 2019, 6pm - 8pm

NOTE : flash floods at night on Friday, May 3rd had a negative impact on attendance for this community meeting series.



Community Meeting Series #2 at Anderson Mill, Source: WRT

WHAT WE HEARD

THEMES FEEDBACK

Participants were able to provide feedback and vote on the ten major themes that emerged from previous community engagement events and completed surveys. Those ten themes are: natural experiences, unstructured spaces, green infrastructure, linear parks & trails, proximity & access, urban spaces, parks & arts/culture, educational opportunities, inclusivity, and cleanliness & safety. In general, there was consensus across all sub-areas on what people wanted to see in the future. The top five long-range themes that participants agreed on are:

1. Cleanliness & Safety

People are concerned that parks are not being adequately taken care of. This includes issues around lighting, shade, maintenance, recycling, bathrooms, off-leash dog areas and dog waste disposal. Related to this, people also expressed concern about the issue of homelessness on many dimensions – safety, park cleanliness, humanitarian - and saw an opportunity to work with homeless population to improve park cleanliness & safety.

2. Linear Parks & Trails

People are more interested in parks that allow them to move (walk/run/bike) as opposed to staying in one place. There is an interest in nature and multipurpose trails within PARD parks as well as connectivity between parks along urban trails.

3. Inclusivity

People express a desire for parks and programming to be more inclusive. This includes more publicity about activities, providing free parking, reducing fees that prevent low-income residents from participating, and increasing multi-generational programs and spaces.

4. Natural Experiences

People express a desire for parks that feel more natural. This includes undeveloped, wild natural spaces, rustic finishes instead of paved areas and more native plants.

5. Unstructured Spaces

In general, people care less about spaces for specific programming, opting for more multi-use spaces. This includes preserving green, “natural” and “open” spaces.



Community Meeting Series #2 at Fo Guang Shan Xiang Yun Temple, Source: WRT

WHAT WE HEARD (CONTINUED...)

WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Participants were asked what was most important to them, and responses varied from more recycling to increased parking to additional resources for disc golf. There was a general interest in increasing summer camp opportunities and striking a balance between active recreation/programming and preserving parks as natural areas. However, participants raised concerns on equity and affordable housing as parkland and amenities increase. Some comments include:

- “More budgeting towards cleaning up trash on greenbelts”
- “Park programming for kids + adults with disabilities”
- “A functional multi-purpose court (fenced in, nice surface) for multiple sports to practice, hold tournaments, and engage in weekly pick-up games”
- “Natural play and learning environments are important for early childhood development. Seeing money go towards installation of natural play sites is good for all of us”



PARD Partner Tables at Community Meeting Series #2 at South Austin Senior Center, Source: WRT

IDENTIFYING LOCAL NEEDS

Participants were also shown the six geographic sub-areas that divide Austin for the purposes of the LRP: North, East, Southeast, Southwest, West, and Central. These sub-areas are intended to approximate the way residents and visitors might make use of the local park system--what facilities and amenities are accessible to them and how they relate to one another.

There were opportunities to give feedback on four different topics within each sub-area:

1. Improving Connections/Access

This asked where access and connections to existing parks could be improved.

2. Investing in Existing Parks

Participants were asked where investments in improvements/maintenance to existing parks should be made.

3. Creating New Parks

Where participants would like to see new parks located.

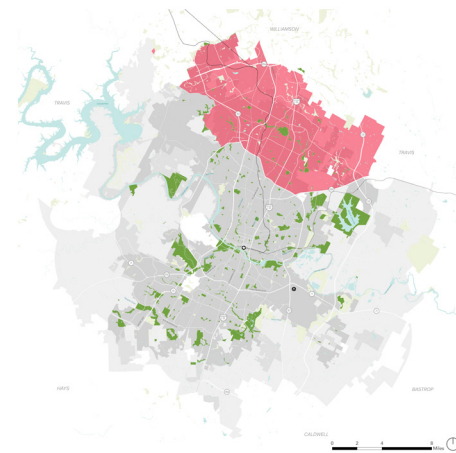
4. Facility Type High Priority Needs

This question was specific to each sub-area and reflective of previous feedback. Priority needs were identified, such as trails, natural spaces, and outdoor pools, and participants were then asked where these facilities should be located in their area.

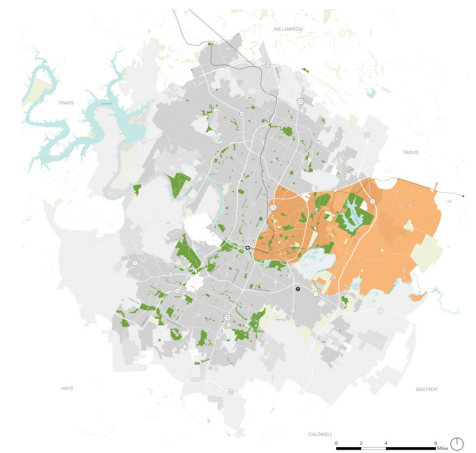
CENTRAL



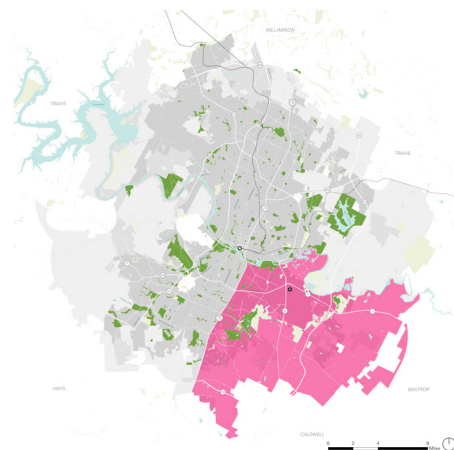
NORTH



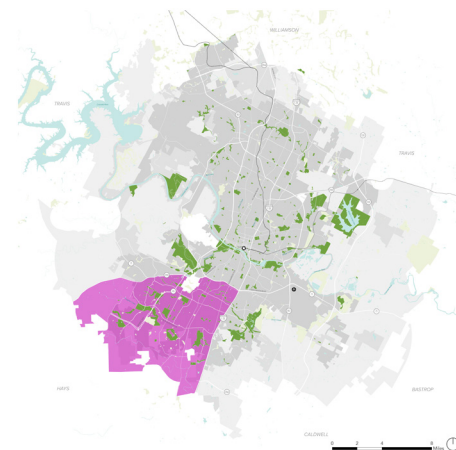
EAST



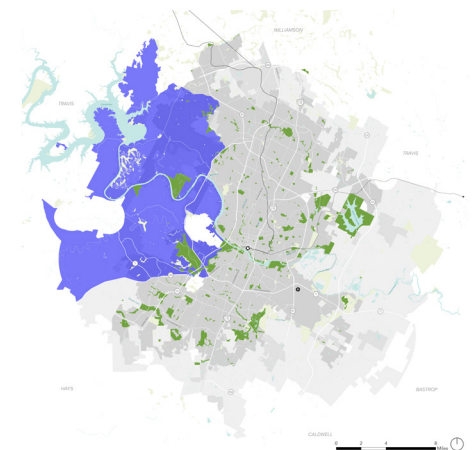
SOUTHEAST



SOUTHWEST



WEST



POP-UP SERIES #2

52
COMMENTS
SUBMITTED

157
POP-UP VISITORS
ENGAGED

PHASE TWO

PURPOSE & OVERVIEW

PARD staff and consultant team member Adisa Communications, led pop-ups as a part of existing events or highly trafficked locations (e.g., libraries, farmers markets). These pop-ups took place in May and June of 2019 and were designed to not only share information about the PARD Long Range Plan, but also to promote and extend the impact of the Community Meeting Series #2 by engaging residents and stakeholders outside of the meeting setting and encouraging more continuous, ongoing participation in the planning effort between meetings.

At the pop-ups, community members were greeted and provided with a fact sheet and one-page handout as well as PARD giveaways and additional Long Range Plan materials. Several Community Meeting #2 boards were available for information and input gathering: a summary of the community survey results, the community engagement theme dot-voting board, and the combined planning area input board for the area in which the pop-up was taking place.



ACC Highland Pop-Up

WHERE & WHEN

ACC Highland*

6101 ACC Highland Campus Drive
May 9, 2019, 11am – 12pm
Visitors Engaged: 22

Southeast Branch Library*

5803 Nuckols Crossing Road
May 11, 2019, 2pm - 4pm
Visitors Engaged: 7

Ruiz Branch Library*

1600 Grove Boulevard
May 16, 2019, 5pm - 7pm
Visitors Engaged: 7

YMCA East Communities*

5315 Ed Bluestein Boulevard
May 18, 2019, 12pm - 3pm
Visitors Engaged: 12

Cap Metro Health & Wellness Fair

2910 E 5th Street
June 5, 2019, 11am - 2pm
Visitors Engaged: 30

St. Elmo Brewing Company*

440 E St Elmo Road G-2
June 6, 2019, 7pm - 10pm
Visitors Engaged: 13

North Village Branch Library*

2505 Steck Avenue
June 7, 2019, 4pm - 6pm
Visitors Engaged: 6

* Indicates Adisa Communications attended; all others staffed by PARD



St. Elmo Brewing Company Pop-Up

John Trevino Master Plan

John Trevino Jr. Metro Park

June 8, 2019, 10am - 12pm

Visitors Engaged: 60



Ruiz Branch Library Pop-Up

District 7 Town Hall

Northwest Rec Center

June 11, 2019, 6:30pm - 8pm

Visitors Engaged: to be added



YMCA East Communities Pop-Up



St. Elmo Brewing Company Pop-Up

COMMUNITY MEETING SERIES #3

PHASE THREE

PURPOSE & OVERVIEW

This final set of two community meetings had a hybrid format: a brief introductory presentation providing an overview of the planning process and recommendations to get participants oriented, and then an informal open house where participants were encouraged to review boards describing citywide and planning area recommendations, ask questions and provide feedback on the recommendations.

These meetings were designed to:

- Share results of the needs assessments and community input to date
- Inform the public and project stakeholders of the Draft Plan recommendations in a setting that encouraged informal discussion and clarifying questions
- Get feedback on priorities for different areas of the city
- Kick off the public review process for the Draft Plan
- Share information on how to get involved and next steps

After the meetings were complete, the draft plan was made available online for public review through September 9, 2019. Pop-ups at locations across the city were also held to get direct feedback from the community during the comment period.

WHERE & WHEN

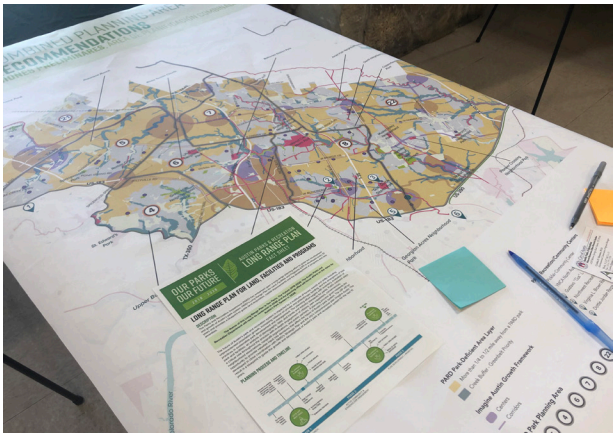
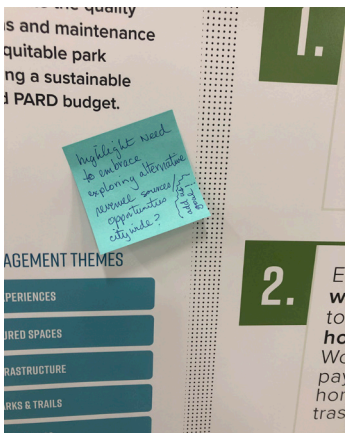
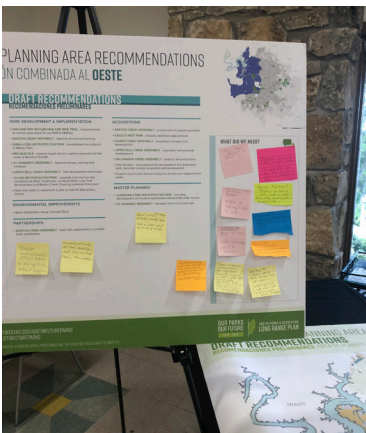
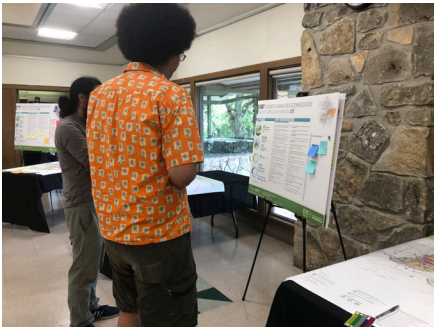
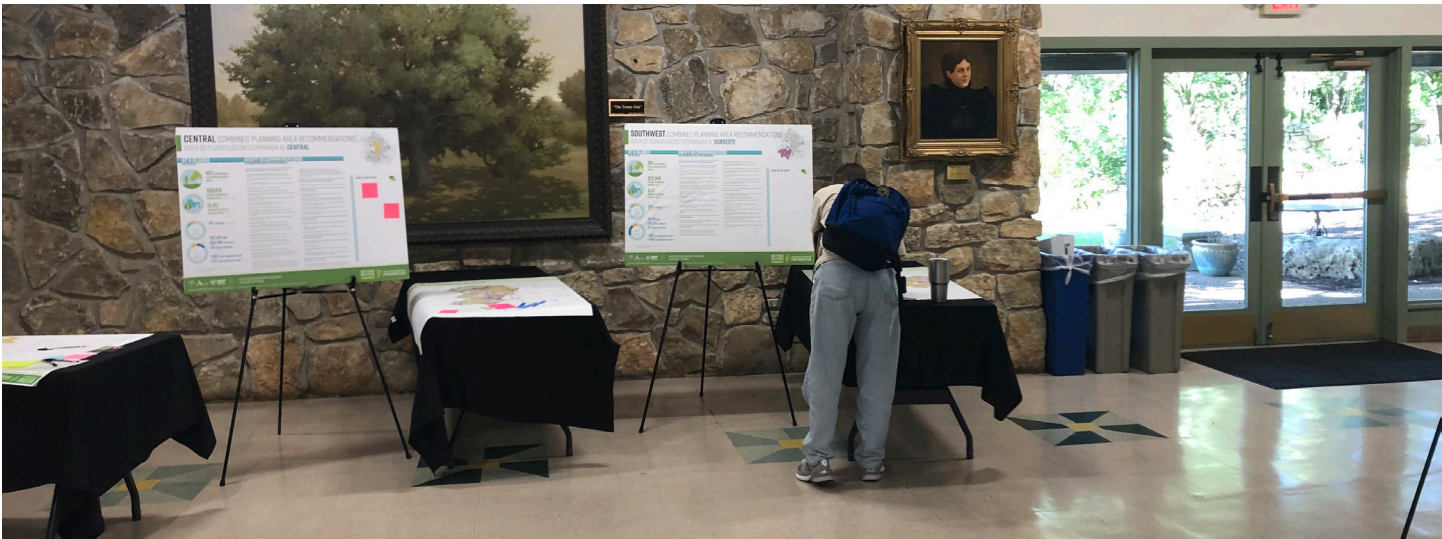
Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex

1156 Hargrave St
July 25, 2019, 4pm - 8pm

Zilker Botanical Garden

2220 Barton Springs Rd
July 27, 2019, 9am - 1pm





POP-UP SERIES #3

11
EVENTS
ATTENDED

248
POP-UP VISITORS
ENGAGED

PHASE THREE

PURPOSE & OVERVIEW

PARD staff and consultant team member Adisa Communications led draft plan review pop-ups as a part of existing events or highly trafficked locations (e.g., libraries, farmers markets) throughout August and September of 2019. These pop-ups were designed to share the Draft Plan Recommendations, answer questions, stimulate conversation and promote the opportunity to give detailed feedback online before the comment period ended on September 9th of 2019. The Community Meeting #3 boards were available at the pop-ups for information and to collect feedback.

WHERE & WHEN

Back to School Bash @ Turner-

Roberts Recreation Center

7201 Colony Loop Drive
August 2, 2019, 5:30pm – 7:30pm
Visitors Engaged: 50

Austin ISD Back to School Bash @

Palmer Events Center*

900 Barton Springs Road
August 3, 2019, 8am - 12pm
Visitors Engaged: 32

Jewish Community Center Splash

Day Back to School Pool Party*

7300 Hart Lane
August 4, 2019, 11am - 1pm
Visitors Engaged: 5

Burnet Middle School*

8401 Hathaway Drive
August 7, 2019, 12:30pm - 2pm
Visitors Engaged: 13

Circle C Community Center

7817 La Crosse Avenue
August 7, 2019, 6pm - 7:30pm
Visitors Engaged: 25

Dove Springs Advisory Board Backpack Giveaway @ Mendez Middle School*

5106 Village Square
August 10, 2019, 9am - 11am
Visitors Engaged: 15

Austin Pride Festival*

2101 Jesse Segovia Street
August 10, 2019, 11am - 7pm
Visitors Engaged: 53

Bartholomew Municipal Pool*

1800 E 51st Street
August 14, 2019, 5pm - 8pm
Visitors Engaged: 9

Northwest Family YMCA*

5807 McNeil Drive
August 27, 2019, 9:30am - 12pm
Visitors Engaged: 25

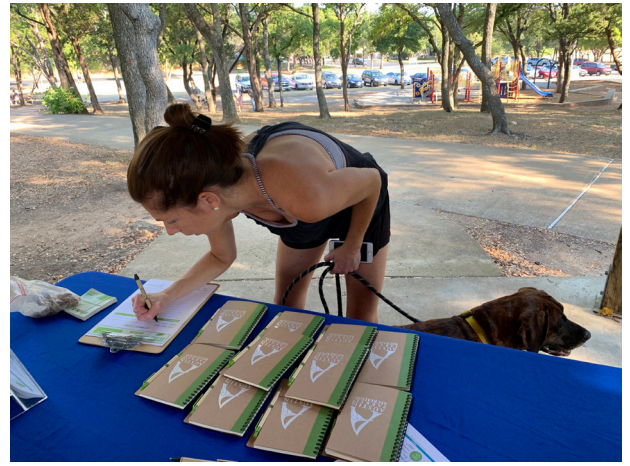
Southpark Meadows Common Area*

9500 S IH 35 Frontage Road
August 30, 2019, 4pm - 7pm
Visitors Engaged: 10

Longview Neighborhood Park Pavilion Area*

7609 Longview Road
September 7, 2019, 9am - 11am
Visitors Engaged: 11

* Indicates Adisa Communications attended; all others staffed by PARD

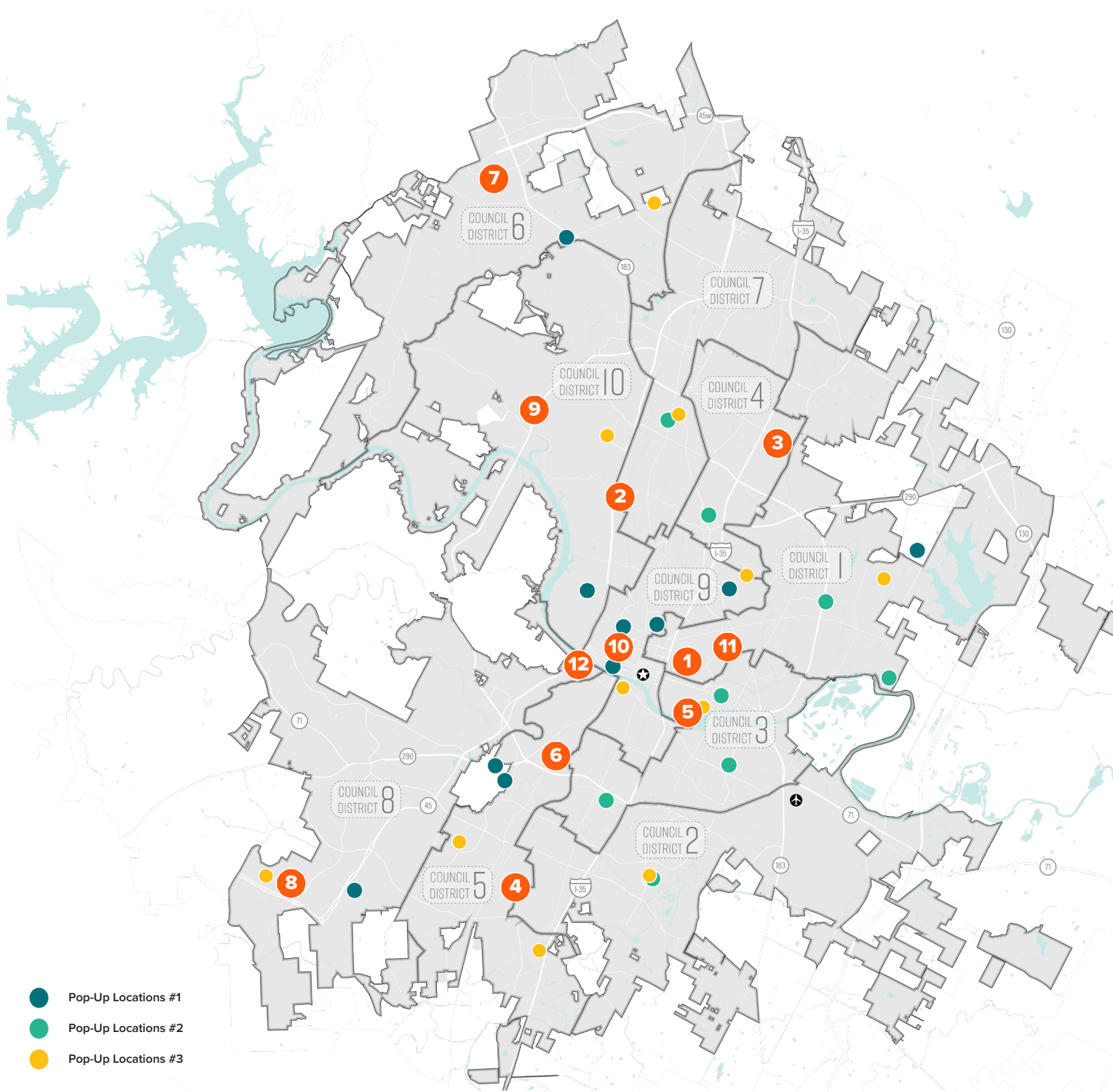


APPENDIX A

ENGAGEMENT LOCATIONS ON THE MAP

COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND POP-UPS

One of the goals of the engagement process was to hold community meetings and “pop-up” at events and locations throughout the city. PARD hosted open house style meetings and set up pop-ups in all ten council districts for each round of engagement.



- Pop-Up Locations #1
- Pop-Up Locations #2
- Pop-Up Locations #3

OPEN HOUSE SERIES #1

- 1** **George Washington Carver Museum**
1165 Angelina Street
November 8, 2018, 6pm - 8pm
- 2** **Northwest Recreation Center**
2913 Northland Drive
November 10, 2018, 11am - 1pm
- 3** **Gustavo "Gus" L. Garcia Recreation Center**
1201 E Rundberg Lane
November 10, 2018, 3pm - 5pm
- 4** **Dittmar Recreation Center**
1009 W Dittmar Road
November 13, 2018, 6pm - 9pm
- 5** **Fiesta Gardens Building**
2101 Jesse E. Segovia Street
November 14, 2018, 6pm - 8pm

OPEN HOUSE SERIES #2

- 6** **South Austin Senior Activity Center**
3911 Manchaca Road
May 2, 2019, 6pm - 8pm
- 7** **Anderson Mill Limited District Community Center**
11500 El Salido Parkway
May 3, 2019, 6:30pm - 8:30pm
- 8** **Circle C Community Center**
7817 La Crosse Avenue
May 4, 2019, 10am - 12pm
- 9** **IBPS Buddhist Temple/FGS Xiang Yun Temple**
6720 N Capital of Texas Highway
May 4, 2019, 2pm - 4pm
- 10** **Austin Recreation Center**
1301 Shoal Creek Boulevard
May 4, 2019, 6pm - 8pm

OPEN HOUSE SERIES #3

- 11** **Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex**
1156 Hargrave Street
July 25, 2019, 4pm - 8pm
- 12** **Zilker Botanical Garden**
2220 Barton Springs Road
July 27, 2019, 9am - 1pm



Community Engagement Activity Locations.

APPENDIX B

ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEY COMPREHENSIVE RESULTS

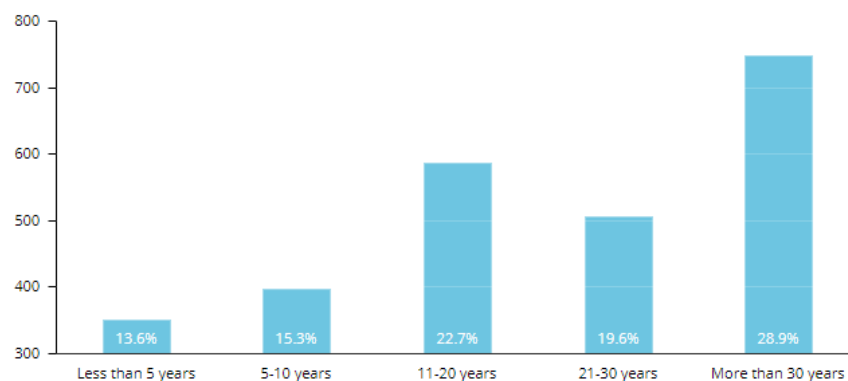
PHASE ONE

DEMOGRAPHICS

The following graphs and charts represent the demographic profile of Austin residents that submitted responses to the Online Community Survey.

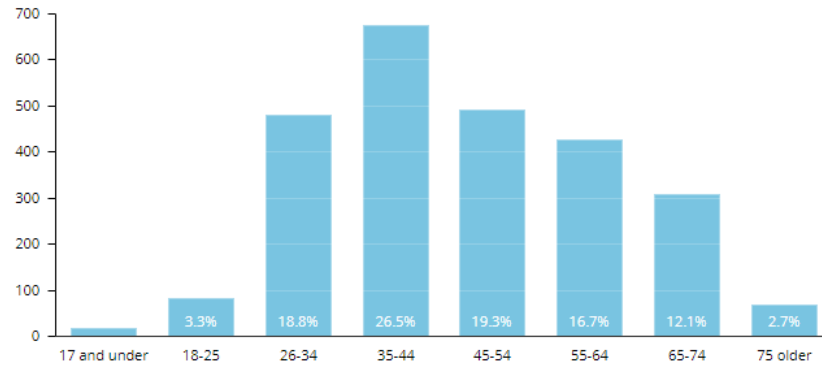
LENGTH OF AUSTIN RESIDENCE

2,571 RESPONDENTS



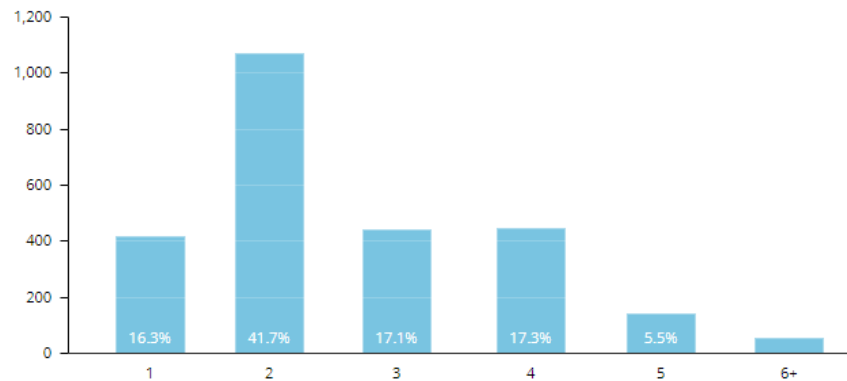
AGE

2,551 RESPONDENTS



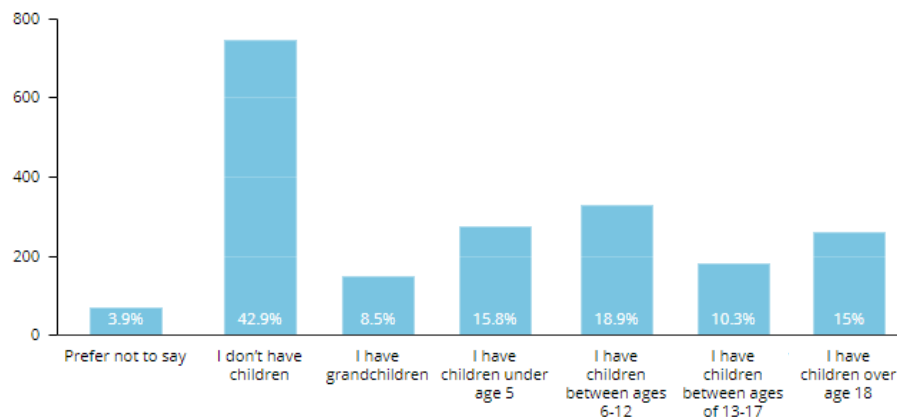
HOUSEHOLD SIZE

2,566 RESPONDENTS



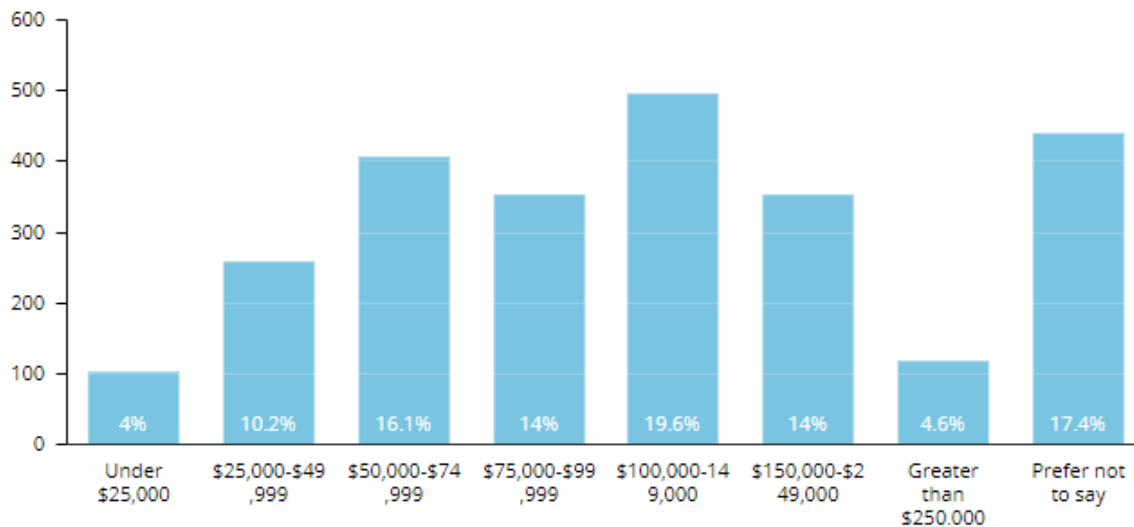
PARENTING STATUS

1,738 RESPONDENTS



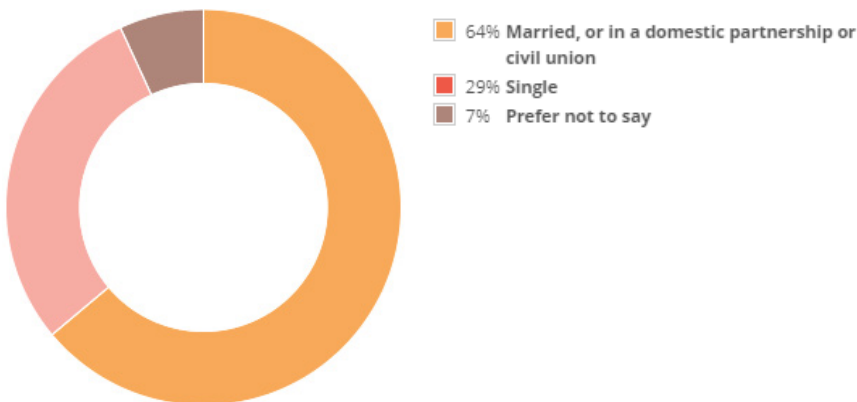
HOUSEHOLD INCOME

2,521 RESPONDENTS



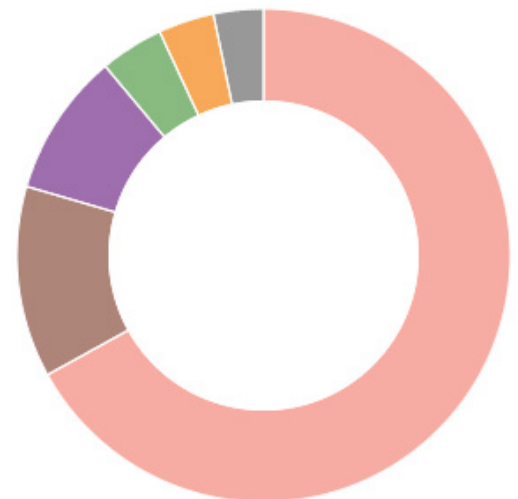
MARITAL STATUS

2,492 RESPONDENTS



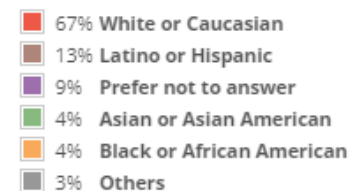
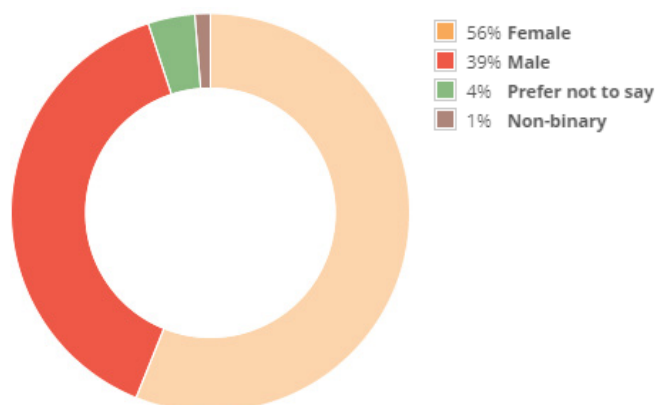
RACE/ETHNICITY

1,693 RESPONDENTS



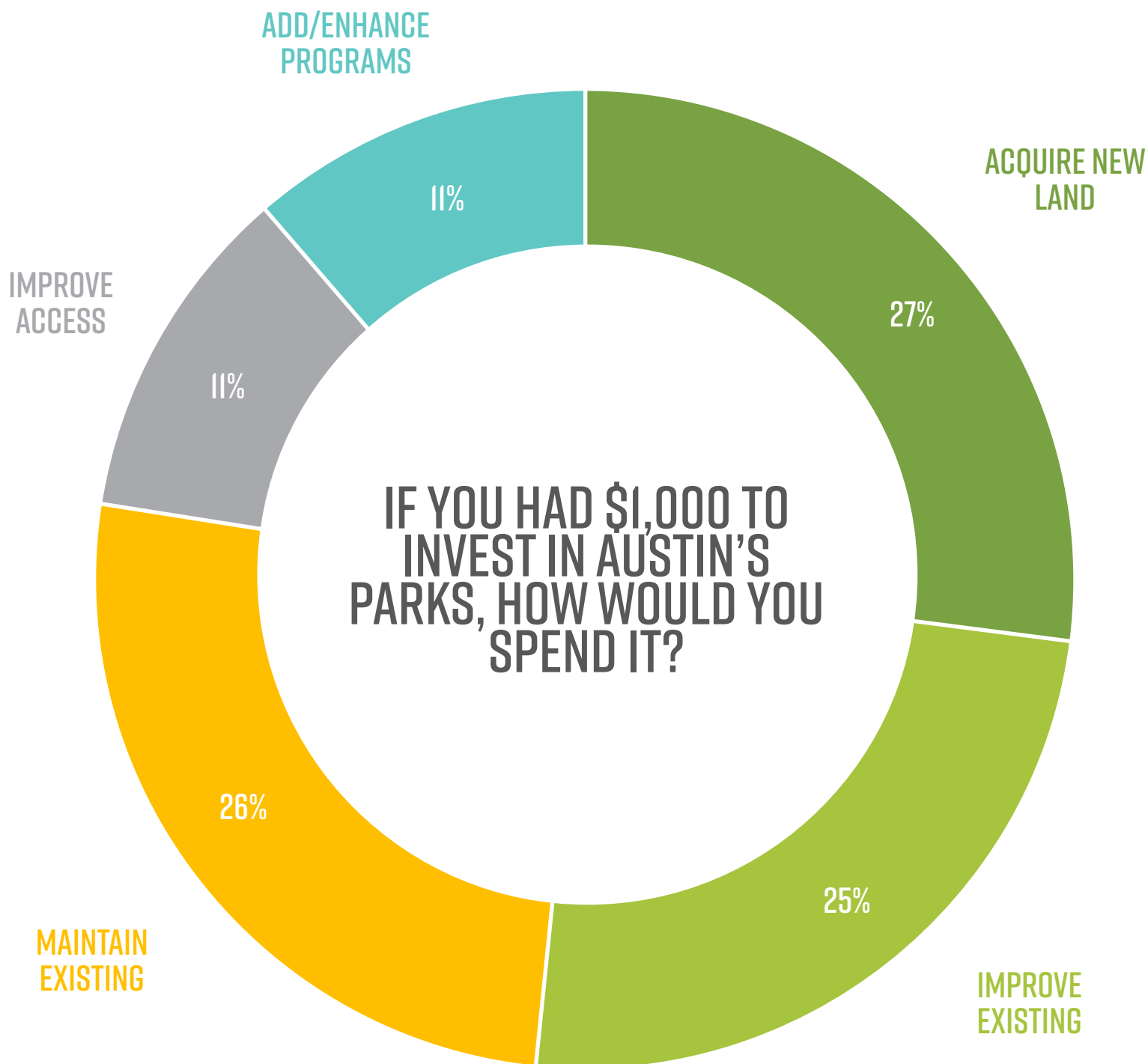
GENDER

1,756 RESPONDENTS



PARD SPENDING PRIORITIES

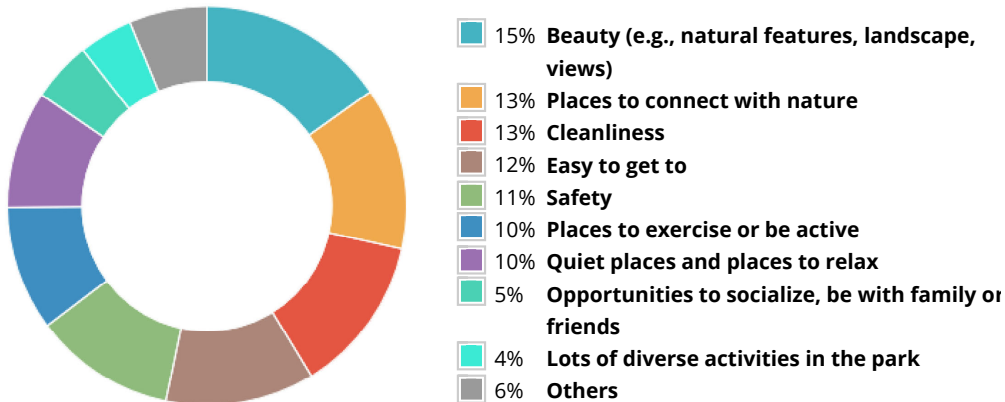
The following pie chart shows the composite outcome from both the pop-ups and the community meeting series (not the Online Community Survey).



GENERAL PARK USE & VALUE

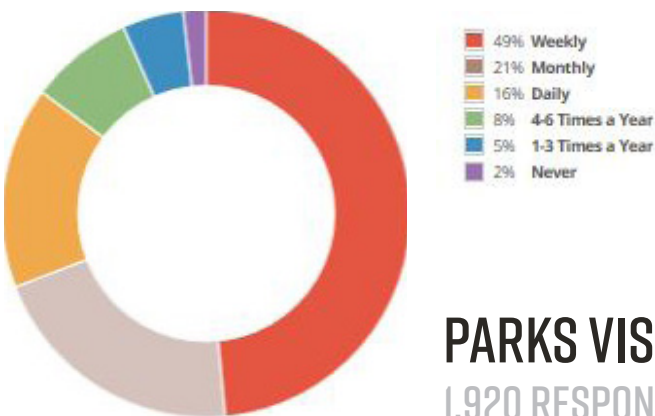
WHAT MAKES A PARK VALUABLE

2,616 RESPONDENTS



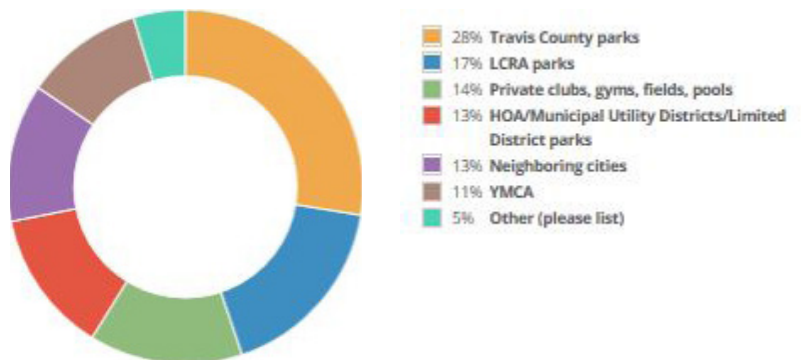
HOW OFTEN YOU VISIT THE PARKS

4,351 RESPONDENTS



PARKS VISITED OUTSIDE OF AUSTIN

1,920 RESPONDENTS



WHAT STOPS YOU FROM USING THE PARKS

2,236 RESPONDENTS



- 11% Crime or safety concerns
- 10% No parks or facilities close to home
- 10% Parks and facilities appear degraded and in poor condition
- 10% Inadequate parking
- 9% Presence of people experiencing homelessness
- 8% Lack of lighting
- 7% Parks and facilities do not appear clean
- 6% Lack of awareness of what programs are offered
- 5% Operating hours or length of season is too short
- 4% Entry fees at select sites, such as specialty pools
- 4% Other (please comment)
- 17% Others

PRIORITIES FOR PARK INVESTMENT

1,623 RESPONDENTS



- 21% Acquire land for parks and facilities in areas that lack parkland
- 20% Maintain existing parks and facilities
- 20% Improve access to parks and facilities through trails, sidewalks, bike lanes, safer crossings
- 19% Improve existing parks and facilities through new buildings, paving, trees, playgrounds
- 16% Add or enhance programs at parks and facilities (e.g., group exercise, arts and culture, education concerts, markets,)
- 3% Other (please comment)

BEST WAY TO FIND OUT ABOUT PARD EVENTS/PROGRAMS

2,500 RESPONDENTS

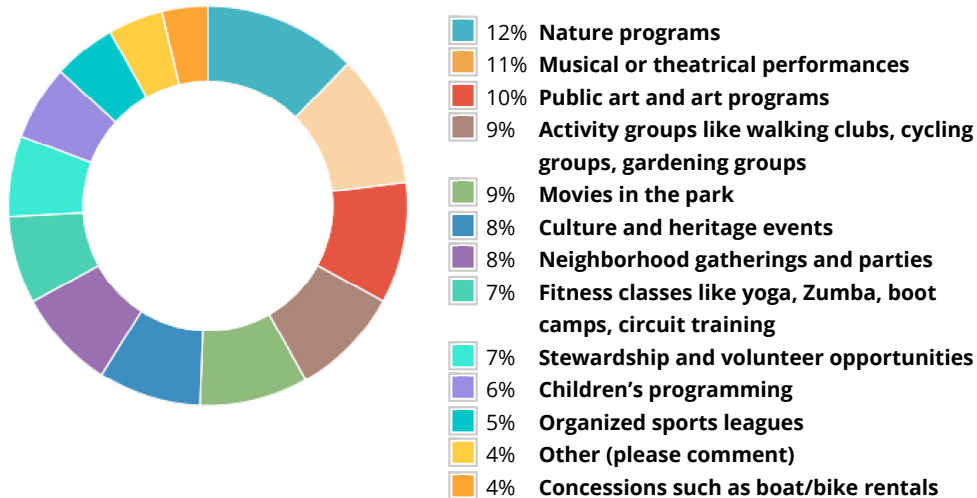


- 17% Email
- 15% PARD Social Media (Facebook, Twitter)
- 13% PARD Website
- 13% NextDoor
- 11% Word of Mouth / Other organizations
- 9% TV / Radio
- 9% City of Austin Website
- 6% Newspaper
- 5% Flyers / Posters
- 3% Others

RECREATION & PROGRAM PREFERENCES

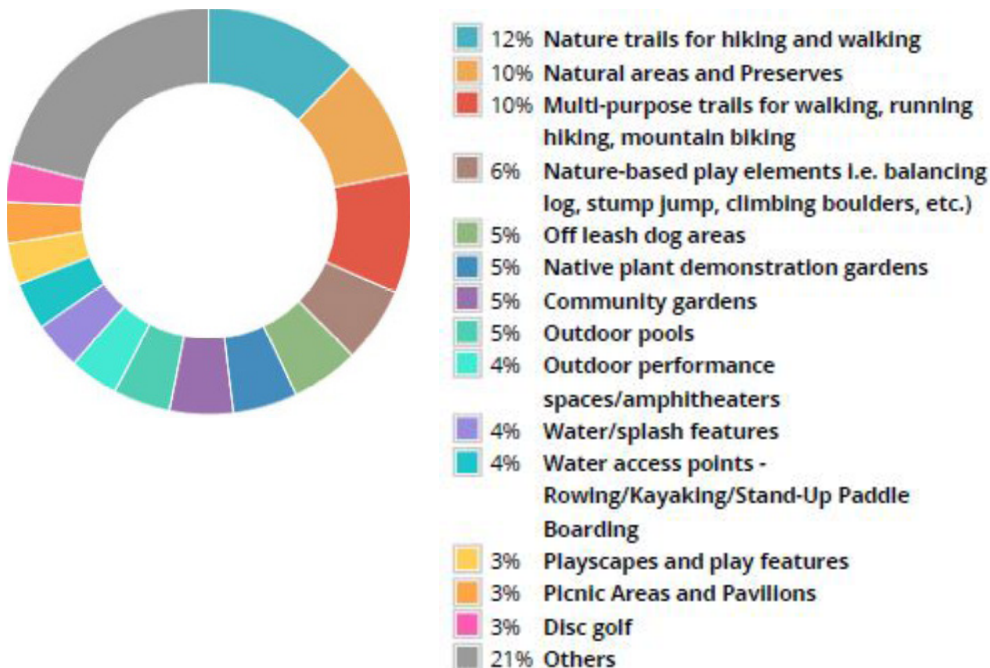
PROGRAMS THAT WOULD KEEP YOU AT A PARK MORE

3,004 RESPONDENTS



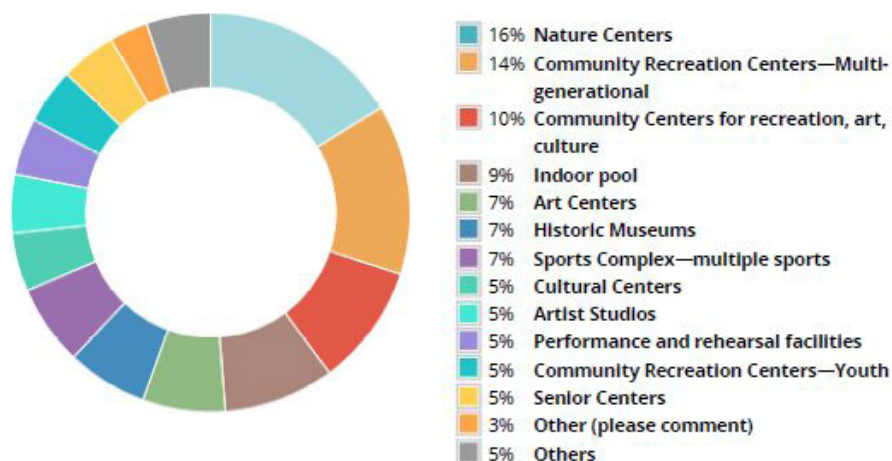
PROGRAM OPTIONS YOU WANT IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS

2,981 RESPONDENTS



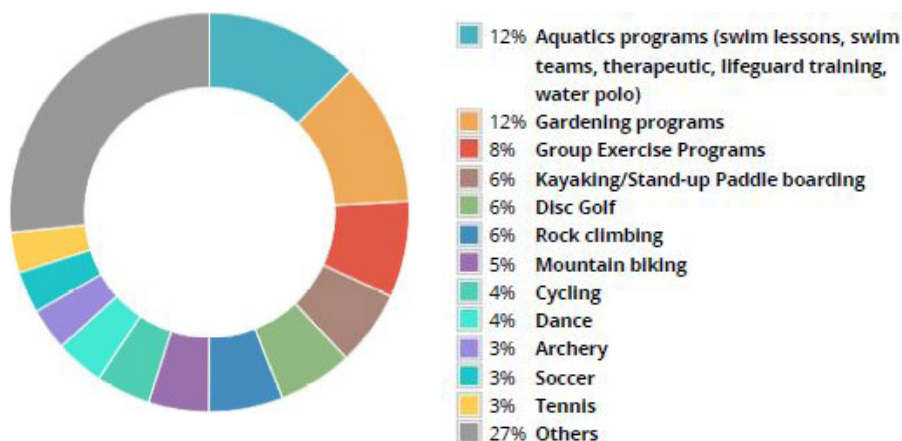
FACILITIES YOU WANT IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS

2,567 RESPONDENTS



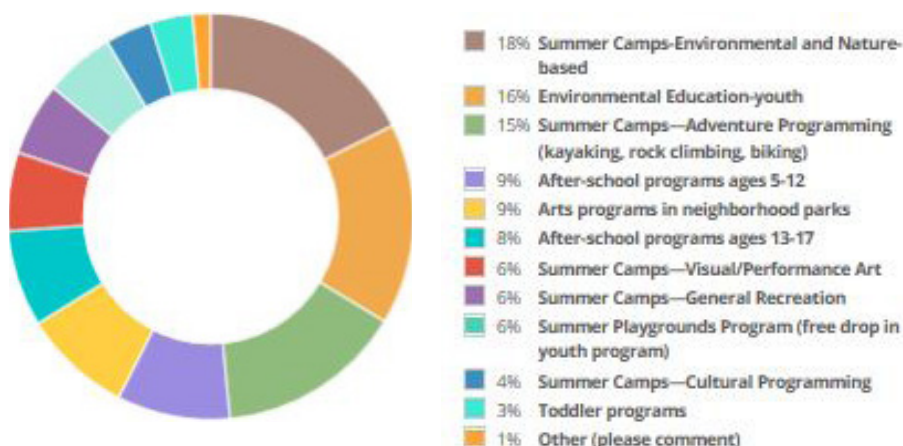
SPORTS PROGRAMS YOU WANT IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS

2,682 RESPONDENTS



YOUTH PROGRAMS YOU WANT IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS

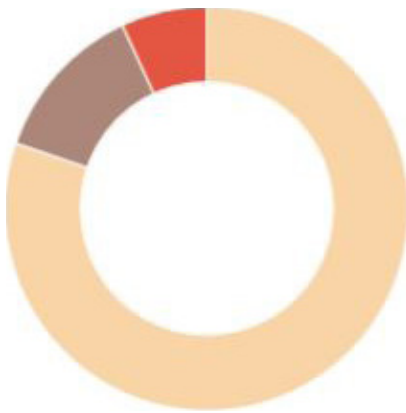
2,357 RESPONDENTS



FACILITY PREFERENCES

DOWNTOWN & URBAN SPACES

793 RESPONDENTS



- 80% Republic Square
- 13% Wooldridge Square
- 7% Brush Square

COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTERS

724 RESPONDENTS



- 13% Hancock Recreation Center
- 13% Northwest Recreation Center
- 12% South Austin Recreation Center
- 11% COA/YMCA North Austin Community Recreation Center
- 9% Austin Recreation Center
- 9% Dittmar Recreation Center
- 4% Dove Springs Recreation Center
- 4% Gustavo "Gus" L. Garcia Recreation Center
- 3% Dottie Jordan Recreation Center
- 20% Others

TENNIS CENTERS

426 RESPONDENTS



- 34% South Austin Tennis Center
- 30% Austin High Tennis Center
- 21% Caswell Tennis Center
- 15% Burnett "Blondie" Pharr Tennis Center

CULTURAL/HISTORIC FACILITIES

982 RESPONDENTS



- 16% Zilker Botanical Garden
- 12% Umlauf Sculpture Garden
- 12% Mayfield Park
- 11% Dougherty Arts Center
- 10% Austin Nature and Science Center
- 9% Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Centers
- 8% George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center
- 8% Elisabet Ney Museum
- 6% Covert Park at Mt. Bonnell
- 5% Asian American Resource Center
- 4% Others

CEMETERIES

291 RESPONDENTS



- 42% Austin Memorial Park Cemetery
- 25% Oakwood Cemetery
- 12% Oakwood Annex Cemetery
- 12% Evergreen Cemetery
- 8% Plummers Cemetery

SPECIAL/ATHLETICS/RECREATION

551 RESPONDENTS



- 40% Red Bud Isle
- 19% Krieg Fields
- 10% Mabel Davis BMX Skate Park
- 9% Walsh Boat Landing
- 8% Heath Eiland and Morgan Moss BMX Skate Park
- 7% Montopolis Practice Field
- 7% Onion Creek Soccer Complex

SENIOR CENTERS

443 RESPONDENTS



- 39% South Austin Senior Activity Center
- 37% Lamar Senior Activity Center
- 24% Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center

GOLF COURSES

397 RESPONDENTS

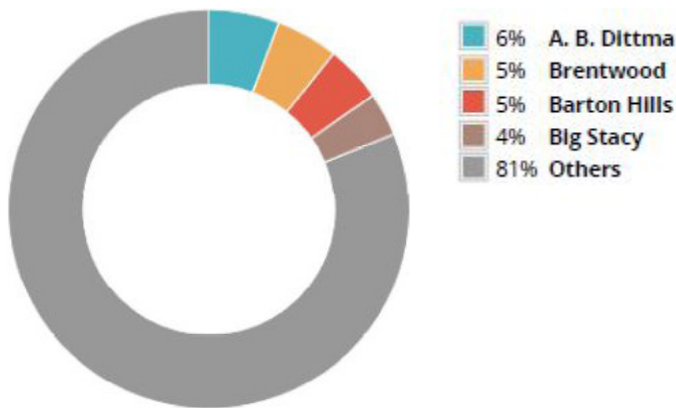


- 26% Hancock Golf Course
- 19% Lions Municipal Golf Course
- 15% Jimmy Clay Golf Course
- 15% Morris Williams Golf Course
- 13% Grey Rock Golf Course
- 12% Roy Kizer Golf Course

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PREFERENCES

NEIGHBORHOOD/SCHOOL/POCKET PARKS YOU FREQUENT THE MOST

1,906 RESPONDENTS



FAVORITE THING TO DO AT THESE PARKS

1,830 RESPONDENTS



WHAT YOU WANT MORE OF IN THESE PARKS

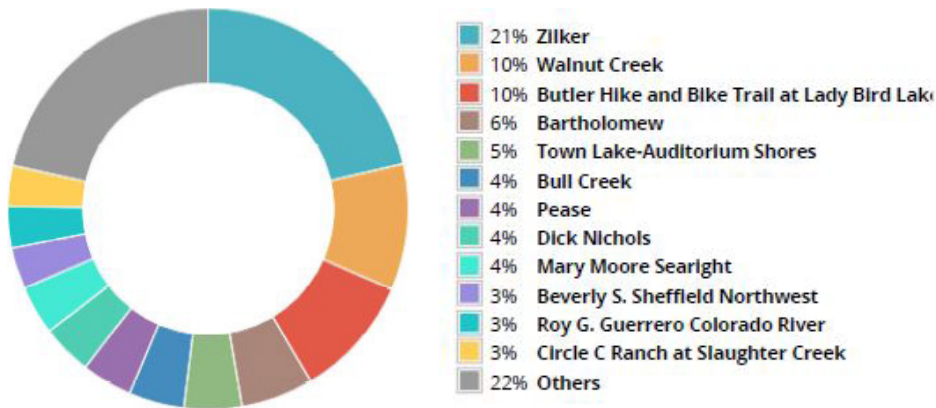
1,592 RESPONDENTS



DISTRICT PARK PREFERENCES

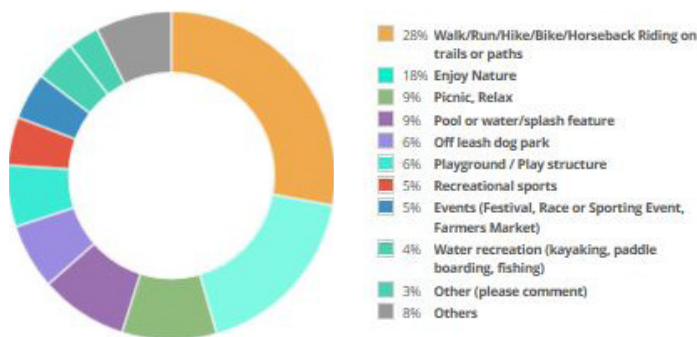
DISTRICT/METROPOLITAN PARKS YOU FREQUENT THE MOST

2,098 RESPONDENTS



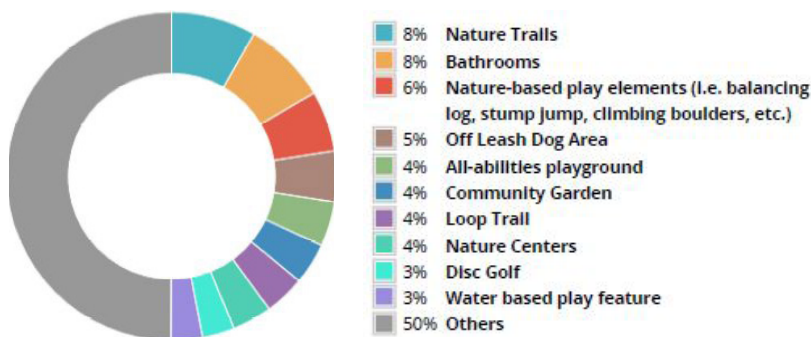
FAVORITE THING TO DO AT THESE PARKS

1,881 RESPONDENTS



WHAT YOU WANT MORE OF IN THESE PARKS

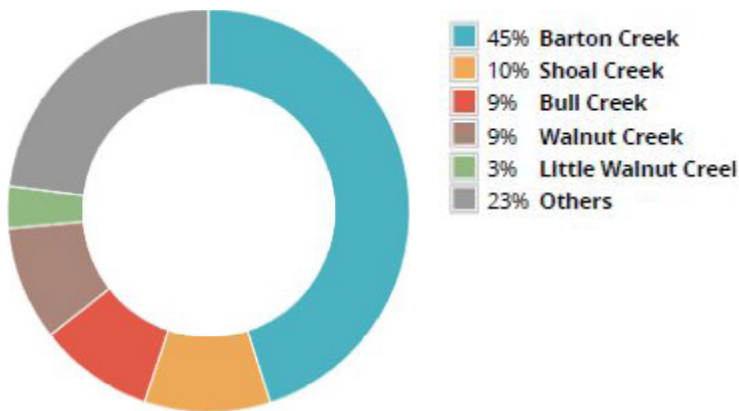
1,704 RESPONDENTS



GREENBELT PARK PREFERENCES

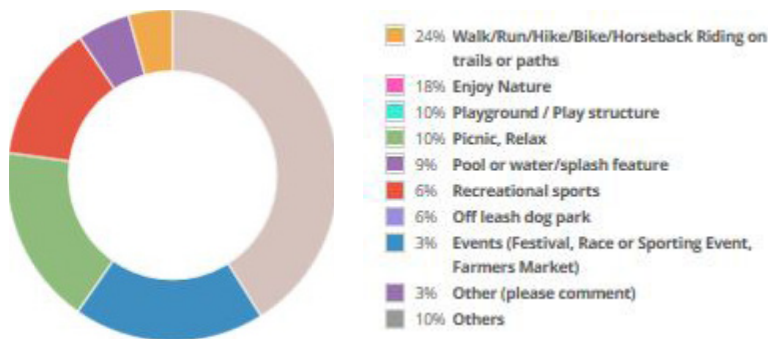
GREENBELTS/GREENWAYS YOU FREQUENT THE MOST

1,762 RESPONDENTS



WHAT YOU WANT MORE OF IN THESE PARKS

1,368 RESPONDENTS



APPENDIX C

COMMUNITY MEETING SERIES #1 DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY

PHASE ONE

PARTICIPANTS

141

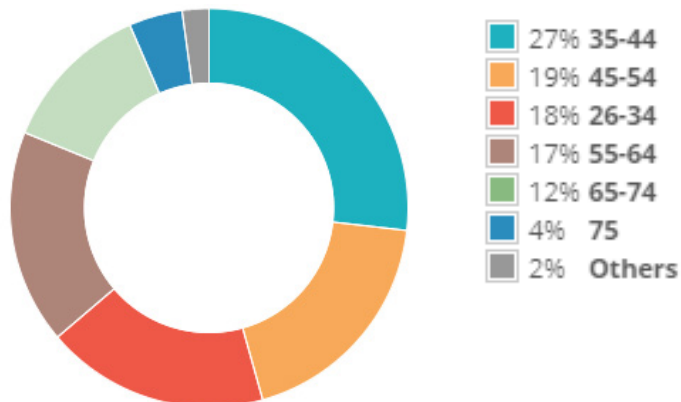
RESPONSES

1,299

COMMENTS

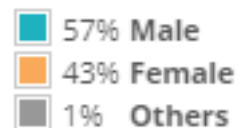
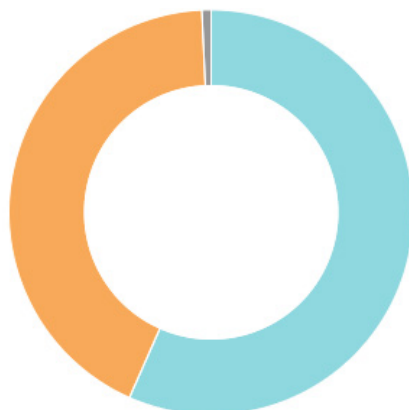
81

AGE 138 RESPONSES



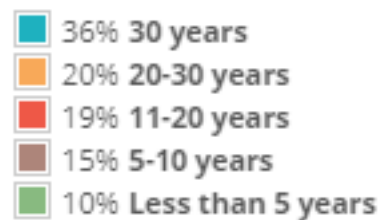
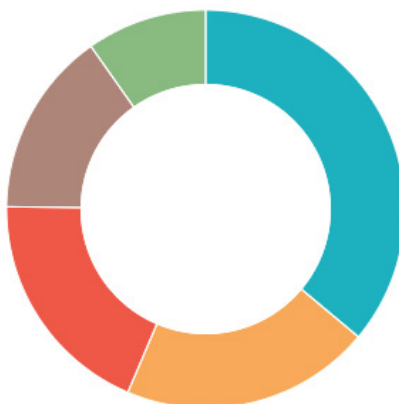
GENDER

136 RESPONSES



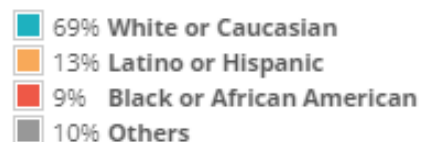
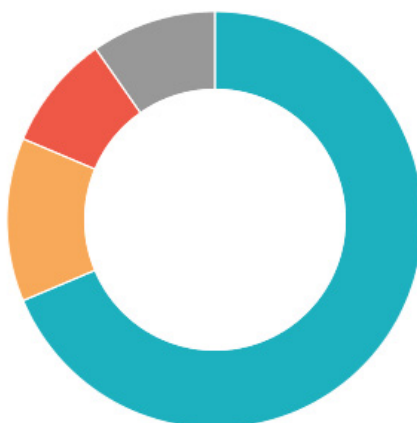
TIME LIVING IN AUSTIN

133 RESPONSES



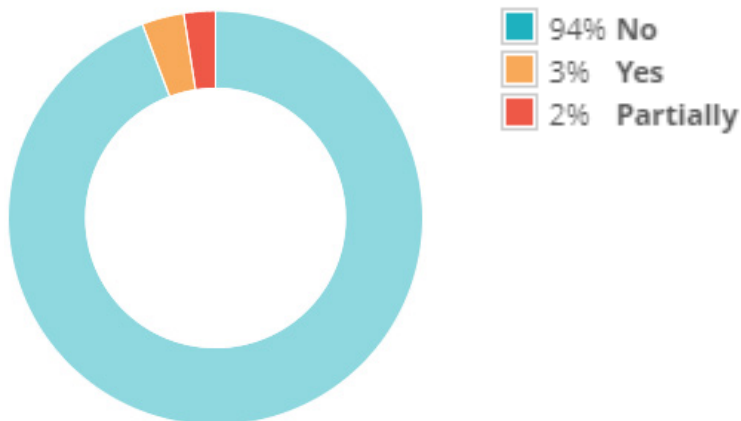
RACE/ETHNICITY

134 RESPONSES



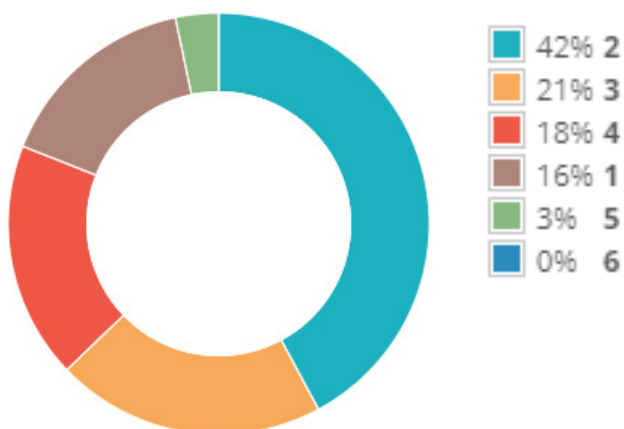
DISABILITY

122 RESPONSES



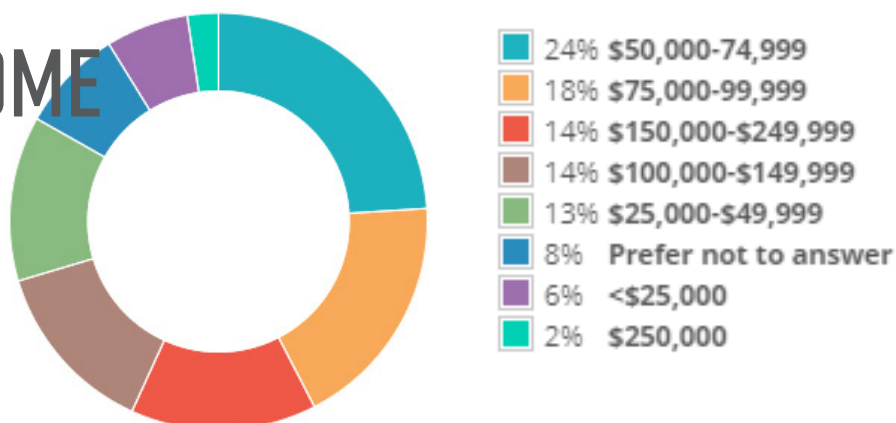
HOUSEHOLD SIZE

121 RESPONSES



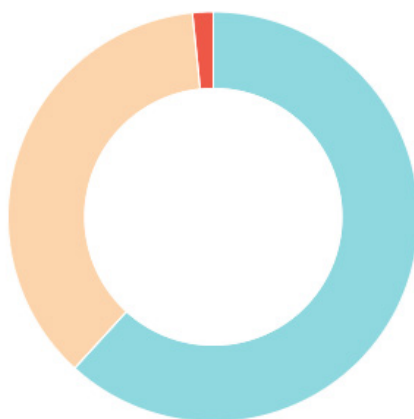
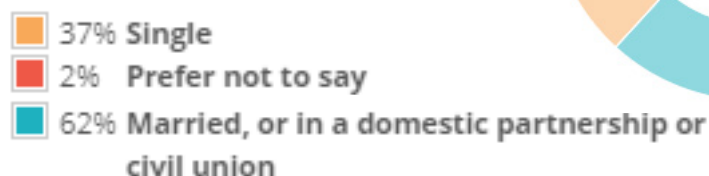
HOUSEHOLD INCOME

125 RESPONSES



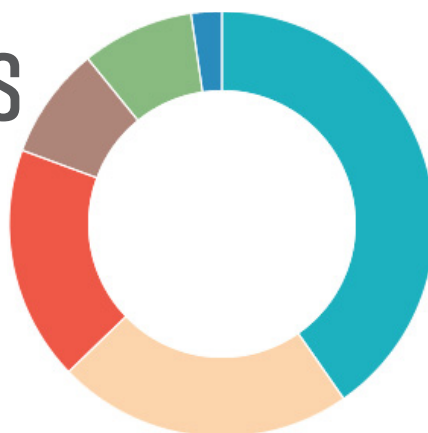
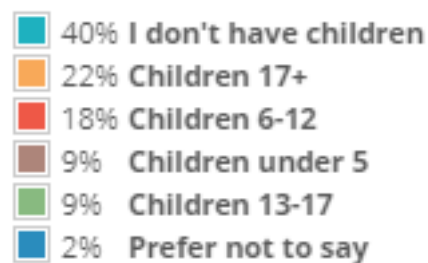
MARITAL STATUS

123 RESPONSES



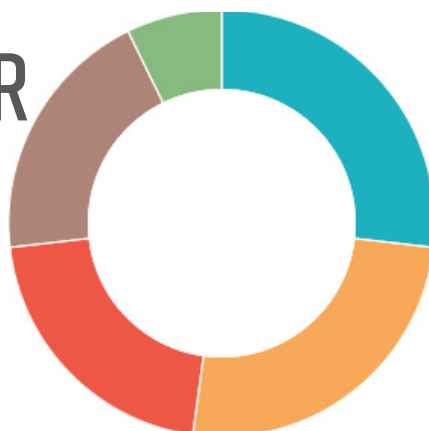
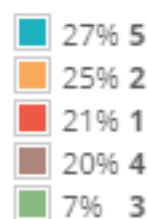
PARENTING STATUS

118 RESPONSES



MEETING NUMBER

138 RESPONSES



Email Comments Prior to Draft Plan

Date	Name	Comment	Topic	Topic	Topic	Action/Resolution/Response	Second Communication
9/7/2018	Justin Arthur Krizel	Good afternoon I am a local Austin resident, business owner, real estate developer, and also happen to live on the Barton Creek Greenbelt. I would love to find out how to get more involved in the planning process for the future parks plan. I have signed up for the email updates, but I am wondering if there are any other steps I can take to be invited to meetings that may affect change in the future parks plan. Thanks advance for your response.	Tag issue here	Tag issue	Tag issue	Greetings. Public meetings will be held Nov. 8-14 and be on the look-out for the launch of the community survey. Here is a link to more information: http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARC Long Range Planning Team	
9/10/2018	Phillip Moebarger	Since its hot most of the time a lot of people use the park after dark and it would be nice to feel safe by having the trail lit up, solar lights every where would be a good idea for some of that money you just got. Simple fix to keep us Safe I know you want to keep us safe.	Tag issue here	Tag issue	Tag issue	Greetings. Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Public meetings will be held Nov. 8-14 and be on the look-out for the launch of the community survey. Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARC Long Range Planning Team	
10/17/2018	Caroline Chapman	Dear Sir/Madam: Thank you for asking how we can make Austin PARC better than best. Barton Springs is the gem of Austin, clear spring waters, our beautiful Zilker Park especially the Botanical Gardens grateful to all city workers. Thankful to the Tangutchi Family for the botanical garden which we need to maintain and could have guided tours scheduled with parking. This is one of our greatest ecological teaching systems which our school system could embrace for the benefit of our children's eco-friendly education and getting back to nature. Our parks are not homeless shelters for homeless who have mental illness and some that are homeless who are not homeless. We need to keep our parks and recreation centers safe. Nominal charge for using the Austin recreation centers will alleviate homeless loitering in the recreation centers. We need more swimming pools in North Austin. Pools need to be upgraded. Splash pads and pool upgrades in Bartholomew Park and northern areas of Austin. Upgrade the disk golf at Bartholomew Park. We need more basketball courts. We need more walking paths with WiFi and study space, interactive lighting nights, music events, walking and biking paths. Design space for young, teens, mature adults and special needs children. Integrate high-tech community to develop centers for study and exercise, yoga classes, exercise equipment encouraging Austinite communities to get moving and walk safely. Thank you for reading! Kindest regards, Caroline Chapman	Tag issue here	Tag issue	Tag issue	Greetings. Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Public meetings will be held Nov. 8-14 and be on the look-out for the launch of the community survey. Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARC Long Range Planning Team	
10/17/2018	Peggy Pickle	Please, NO MORE BIG EVENTS at Auditorium Shores!	Tag issue here	Tag issue	Tag issue	Greetings. Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Public meetings will be held Nov. 8-14 and be on the look-out for the launch of the community survey. Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARC Long Range Planning Team	
10/17/2018	Mary Hunter	I have shared with parks & Rec. director, South Austin Rec. Center director several times by phone and at a meeting held at South Austin Rec. Center about this same topic. Nothing has ever happened. These meetings are window dressing for your department.	Tag issue here	Tag issue	Tag issue	Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARC Long Range Planning Team	

Date	Name	Comment	Topic	Topic	Topic	Action/Resolution/Response	Second Communication	
10/17/2018	John Faldchak	<p>Since the Austin Memorial Park Cemetery is under the management of the Austin Parks / can we not at least have our Emblem (if we have one) be included in your long Range Planning?</p> <p>You need not / you must not / forget those that have no voice, other than the thousands of us that have loved ones at these cemeteries.</p> <p>How do we draw attention to our long term plans that have been approved several years ago, and have yet to receive funding.</p> <p>Can you kindly respond. Additional email received: This is just my thought / until the name CEMETERY gets added to the Austin Parks and Recreation System, cemeteries will continue to be an unknown part of any planning or funding effort by the City of Austin. Some city council members do even know that we have Five City Cemeteries.</p> <p>Suggested names: Austin Parks Recreation and Cemeteries System Austin Cemeteries - Parks and Recreation System</p> <p>Thank you for hearing from those that have no voice.</p>	Topic	Tag issue here	Topic	Tag issue	Mr. Felchek, This is Kim McKnight from the Cemetery Master Planning team. We are including the Cemetery community in the contact list for the Parks and Recreation long range plan. I do think we are making progress with our historic cemeteries, but I appreciate that it may not seem to happen fast enough. I know that you are most connected with Austin Memorial Park and it continues to be the hub of cemetery operations. In recent years, we have made extensive improvements to the main building including a recent roof replacement. There is certainly more work to be done. We are pleased to have completed the restoration of the Oakwood Chapel in August and it will soon open as a visitor center and community space. Stay tuned for more details as we mobilize to open. I hope you will continue to stay plugged in. Your feedback is thoughtful and your advocacy is admirable. Please do not hesitate to let me know how we can improve our park system. Best regards, Kim McKnight	

Date	Name	Comment	Topic Tag issue here	Topic Tag issue	Action/Resolution/Response	Second Communication
10/17/2018	Lori Renteria	<p>Here are my 3 big ideas for the long-term planning and sustainability of our beloved Austin Parks and PARO facilities:</p> <p>1. Move all PARO's cultural and arts programs and management of cultural facilities to the Economic Development Department. PARO should shed the responsibility of providing funding for arts and cultural programs and cultural facilities to the Eco Dev Dept. because that's where the arts, music, and outdoor functions are along with the Boards and Commissions that push for them. PARO should be able to use the City's budget to do a much better job of delivering quality arts, music and cultural programs to residents and tourists. Leaving these "forever political and always divisive" arts and culture functions to the Eco Dev Dept. makes political and financial sense. Shedding those functions would allow PARO to focus 100% of its resources on recreation/leisure, sports, wildlife, aquatics, and open space/environmental protections leading to more positive, unified support across racial and economic divisions that are tearing our society apart, divisiveness that bogs down decision-making and diverts much-needed funding for our beloved parks and its programs.</p> <p>2. PARO should be able to use the City's budget to provide a much better job of providing reliable and stable funding sources and provide more equitable access to PARO's programs and facilities for lower income residents. Back in the 1980s when I had a Camp Fire Group, PARO offered a "flat-fee punch card" for \$75 per year that allowed me to be able to afford to take Camp Fire youth and later ESOS teens to city parks for day trips and weekend camping trips. Without the discount provided through the Annual Pass, many youth in East Austin would have never been able to experience the outdoors. Currently, PARO day camps, after school programs, and youth sports registration fees are not affordable to the youth who need these programs the most! PARO should be able to use the City's budget to provide a much better job of providing and implementing an Annual Family Pass Program that was based on household income per W2 tax proof. Residents paid a flat, annual fee based on their annual income that provided access to ALL Parks facilities and programs. Curious about how this worked. I visited numerous pools, rec centers, senior centers offering lunch, pools, and open-space/sports parks and asked people about the fees they paid for their Annual Passes. Not a single person complained about their fees, saying that they much preferred making an annual payment (or payment plan) to access all parks facilities for free than the old way of having to pay each time they visited a park or facility. The Annual Pass was a huge success for PARO and the City. PARO should be able to use the City's budget to provide a much better job of providing and implementing the "pay to play, based on household income Annual Pass Program" was implemented, they could not afford to pay entrance fees, program registrations, or special events admission fees. Parents of children and teens especially liked the Annual Pass because each member of their household got their own ID card and they could drop off their kids and not worry about them staying home alone. For special events or programs that had materials costs, Annual Pass holders might have to pay a little extra to participate but it was far more economical to pay a small additional fee than to pay a huge fee to cover all the Parks Dept. operating costs for those special events or programs.</p> <p>The Parks facilities directors and program supervisors I interviewed explained how much better the Annual Pass program worked because the infrastructure costs for their facilities and program staff were covered by the reliable and stable revenue allocated to their geographic Parks sectors which made operating programs and facilities in low-income neighborhoods much more equitable than in the past when each geographic sector had to raise revenue to cover their infrastructure thru fees for each program or activity they operated. The Annual Pass also made their jobs much easier because they didn't have to deal with the stress and frustration of having to ask for participation because they couldn't pay the fees to enter. Very low-income families and most seniors get free Annual Passes. Affluent families said the Annual Pass was cheaper than paying fees for private gyms and after school programs and those with large families said it was a big savings being able to avoid entrance fees for each family member to enter a park, enroll in a program, or to swim in a pool. The Annual Pass was easy to apply for online or at a facility and only required proof of residency and a copy of the W2 form. I think the Annual Passes were issued in January.</p> <p>3. Design and implement a "self-insured" or "market-based" insurance program so that non-PARO/COA staff can do more general maintenance and improvements in parks and at facilities. I'm not real sure about how PARO partners with non-governmental entities to provide supplemental services on PARO-owned land and facilities but I do have a bit of experience with the PARO Partnership program that deals with co-sponsorship of events held at PARO facilities. It's my understanding thru my experience with Friends of the MACC doing Dia de la Raza at the MACC on many years ago that because an IRS-certified non-profit, Friends of the MACC, was the sponsor of the event, PARO was able to avoid paying for the event. PARO was able to avoid paying for the event because the MACC was the sponsor of the event. There are also the "Adopt a Park, Board Walk, and Clean-a-Street" programs co-sponsored by Austin Parks Foundation, Trail Foundation, and Keep Austin Beautiful that allow non-COA employees or non-COA vendors to provide labor and conduct improvements/renovations at PARO and COA owned facilities and Right of Ways. The problem with these existing programs is that PARO requires IRS-certified non-profits to sponsor the work and take responsibility for the volunteers/contractors doing the labor or donating the materials. While I appreciate that PARO has loosened the policies of allowing non-profits to work and/or donate to improve PARO land and facilities, I believe that PARO should be able to use the City's budget to provide a much better job of providing and implementing a program like this with a certified non-profit. And the 3 major non-profits that PARO partners with (Austin Parks Foundation, Trail Foundation, and Keep Austin Beautiful) are limited in capacity to take on new, one-time, or very small projects. I believe if PARO could get the City Manager to extend the City's "self-insurance" policy to cover PARO volunteers or to get approval to buy a private sector insurance policy to cover liability for volunteers working on PARO land or in PARO facilities - and had a budget to professionally market a new all hands on deck are welcome to volunteer to maintain or improve PARO land and facilities, this new policy would help PARO improve, increase the number of people, schools, businesses, and groups helping to maintain PARO inventory lessen the financial strain on PARO's annual maintenance budget, a program like this would generate a lot more ownership and engagement in the parks and at PARO facilities by the folks near those assets which would reduce the complaints by regular users, reduce vandalism/neglect, and improve the overall ambience, usage, access, and image of PARO as a primary asset in neighborhoods all over Austin.</p> <p>I believe these ideas should be presented as part of the upcoming community workshops to gather more ideas and feedback on these concepts and if the broad concepts/ideas presented generate interest, then PARO should spend some time investigating the feasibility. That's my 2 cents, keep or toss!</p>			<p>Greetings Ms. Renteria,</p> <p>I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to thank you for taking time to provide thoughtful and thorough feedback for PARO's long range plan efforts. Your knowledge and personal history of the park system is extensive and please know that I will be sharing your ideas with our entire team.</p> <p>I hope you can help us spread the word about our upcoming meetings Nov. 8-14. They are listed on board.english.org and on the website. I know you have a great network of community members that might be interested in attending.</p> <p>Again, many thanks for taking the time to share your ideas.</p> <p>Best regards, Kim</p>	

Email Comments Prior to Draft Plan

Date	Name	Comment	Topic	Topic	Topic	Action/Resolution/Response	Second Communication
10/25/2018	David Todd	<p>I am the parks chair for South River City Citizens neighborhood association, and the founder of the Blum Creek Partnership (blumcreekpartnership.org), which organizes volunteer work in Stacy Park and Blum Creek Nature Preserve.</p> <p>I am glad that you are working on a long range plan for the city's park system. I feel that it is a critical part of the city's community and future.</p> <p>I had two thoughts that I hope you might consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) I believe it is essential that the City buy as much land, in fee simple or by easement, to protect out water quality and biodiversity, as well as to provide open space for recreation and education and community-building. 2) I think that the PARD must invest more in the preserve system, which for many years has been under-resourced in terms of staff, budget and equipment, but which is responsible for the care and operation of many wonderful tracts. 	Tag issue here	Tag issue	Tag issue	<p>Mr. Todd,</p> <p>Thank you for your comments and apologies for the delay. I wanted you to know your comments have been recorded, but I also wanted to share additional information with you. You can participate in a virtual meeting by heading the PARD Long Range Plan Speak Up Austin Page here. The boards from the event can be found here.</p> <p>Please also be on the lookout for a community survey to be launched in the next couple of weeks. It would be appreciated if you would also take the survey.</p> <p>We appreciate you taking time to share your feedback.</p> <p>Best regards, PARC Long Range Plan team</p>	
11/15/2018	Barbara Scott	<p>Please send this to me in PDF form and I will post on nextdoor</p>				<p>Ms. Scott</p> <p>This is Kim McKnight from PARD Planning. I am following up to let you know that I sent your email to our engagement team and they confirmed that they posted the meeting invite to Next Door all over the city. We will soon launch the community survey. I hope you don't mind if I reach out to you to share with your community.</p> <p>We appreciate all you do for our city. Thank you!</p> <p>Kim</p>	
11/15/2018	Collette Cosby	<p>My name is Collette Cosby and I am the Lifestyle Director at Easton Park, we are a master plan community in the ETJ of Southeast Austin.</p> <p>I had the pleasure of attending your community meeting at Dittmar Recreation Center on Tuesday and I was very impressed with your initiative to improve Austin Parks.</p> <p>As Easton Park grows each section of our community will have a public parks that are maintained by our HOA but owned by the MUD, until we are eventually annexed into the city. We are currently in the process of planning two of our larger park areas, and would appreciate, if possible, that you share the information share your findings with our team. I am particularly interested in your findings in the 78744 area.</p> <p>If you would like to find out more information about what we are doing in Easton Park please feel free to reach out.</p>	Tag issue here	Tag issue here	Tag issue here	<p>Hello Lora, You can find the plans for Walter E. Long at the link below. The consultant will be presenting the master plan to the Land, Facilities and Programs Committee Monday, June 10 at 5:30. The meeting will be held at the Lamar Senior Activity Center. That is located at 2874 Shoal Crest Ave, Austin, TX 78705. http://www.austintexas.gov/department/walter-e-long-park-master-plan</p> <p>Thanks hope to see you here.</p>	

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11/17/2018	Robert Battaille	<p>It was nice talking with you at Austin PARD's 10-Year Plan open house at Gus Garcia Rec Center.</p> <p>I was glad to hear that you could incorporate some national exercise/sports trends into your calculus for Bocce Courts in the Austin Parks. It true that bocce (and its French cousin pétanque) are relatively (but not completely) unknown in Texas. I was hesitant to run into many people at this Center that day that were in fact knowledgeable and supportive. I would say between 1/3 and 1/2 had some familiarity.</p> <p>Bocce is a game of friendly competition that encourages people to get outside into the fresh for some low-impact exercise. It's also very good for social interaction and networking. People of all shapes, sizes, colors and social strata can enjoy this game. It's a fantastic balance of luck and skill such that everyone gets occasional great spots and little old ladies can beat big burly athletes. As the population ages, bocce becomes an even more attractive option. I've included a few bocce club website links below which I hope you'll visit and explore.</p> <p>I started a league in Santa Rosa California in 2009 and now there are over 500 members playing five nights a week on five courts in their downtown Juilliard Park. The positive activity really helped turn the park around and discouraged bad elements from taking hold. (sonomacountybocce.org)</p> <p>I learned the sport in tiny St. Helena California. A city of 4,000 with nine courts and probably 700+ members playing six nights a week and a Friday morning when the Farmers Market is also going on. The courts are tucked into the heart of the town and are used by a mix of the local population works at the finest restaurants and wineries; the shared food is amazing. (cityofstheleena.org/parksrec/page1st-helena-bocce)</p> <p>Martinez claims to be the largest bocce league in the country. The population is 38,000 and they have 13 courts and some 2000+ members. (martinezbocce federation.org)</p> <p>Yountville is in the heart of Napa Valley and has one of the best layouts that I've seen with covered wood verandas at each end of the court. Wooden picnic table underneath at each end and lights for early evening play. They also have shed with standings, rules and etiquette posted. They are near the Veteran's Home and often vets in wheelchairs are playing. Bocce is a very good sport for handicapped and special needs persons. It has long been popular with Special Olympics groups. (http://www.yountvillebocce.com)</p> <p>Napa's Bocce League plays at the Senior Center and has covered courts which allows games to continue even when it's raining. They have 3 Divisions each with 17 Teams.</p> <p>The tiny town of San Rafael's Marin Bocce Federation (marinbocce.org) is an interesting situation. They use a synthetic rubber surface that is almost like playing on a billiard table. Most courts are using decomposed granite, infield mix or even crushed oyster shell. They have eight exterior courts and two indoor courts. From March through October, almost 1800 players form 160 teams. We have 3 morning leagues and 5 night leagues. Each league is comprised of 3 nine-week sessions - spring, summer and fall.</p> <p>When my Santa Rosa League held tournaments, we had teams from Marin, Napa, St. Helena, Sonoma, Sacramento, Yountville playing against our winning team and an Alistar Team that we put together by having a singles tournament. I think it was great networking and bonding between the cities. And of course, you need to have at least four courts to do this.</p> <p>As you look at these photos, you'll note that most of these courts are of simple wood construction. Usually 2X12 sideboards anchored by short 4X4 posts. Courts DON'T have to be expensive or have concrete curbs to last for years and years. The international standard size is 13' x 90' but the "American" standard is 12' x 76' and works quite well for smaller neighborhood parks. Amenities like tables, shade, shed and lights can be added later. Ideally, there is a way for the public to "check out" a set of balls and play. We use the "official" size and weight balls and have gone to using white and green balls instead of the traditional red and green to help people that a color blind. A door/opening in the perimeter for wheelchair access is required and I've shown a design that I like below.</p> <p>At some point, Austin should have a really first-class facility with at least eight courts and shade covering (or indoors) to host international competitions. The Mueller Hanger has been used to host some international pétanque games.</p> <p>Today, there are barely three courts in Austin. I can easily envision a dozen sites with robust competition and tournaments between the various neighborhoods. The link (bit.ly/LaunchingAustinBocceVideo) will take you to a video that we prepared for a grant proposal last year with a good overview of what can be achieved. We now have our 501(c)(3) status and are working to build bocce courts. There are a few potential site plans at austinbocceleague.org. A portion of the bocce players' fees of perhaps \$25-\$35 per 10-week season will go to maintain the courts and site park. We will "sponsor" people that can't afford the fee.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration and foresight to help the community enjoy this amazing and positive sport. Please call me if you need any more information.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Robert Battaille, Commissioner robert@austinbocceleague.org 512-662-2855</p>	Tag issue here	Tag issue	Tag issue	Greetings, Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austintureparks . Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARD Long Range Planning Team		
11/26/2018	Paul Vaughan	<p>Here's a suggestion: put Volleyball courts under highway overpasses! There are many long overpasses around the city with large spaces currently covered by concrete or brick. Sand volleyball courts could be put in above the concrete to allow players to play in the shade of the overpass. Most of those overpasses are high enough to avoid interfering with play - typically higher than an indoor gym provides. Of course, netting/fencing would be required to keep the balls from going into the access roads. Advertising on that netting would help obscure the players from the drivers, who might get distracted. Parking/access would be from the middle of an existing turn-around lane.</p>	Tag issue here	Tag issue	Tag issue			

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11/26/2018	Roseanne Cullen	I noticed last year when my son was trying to find a house to purchase that was near a park, that there is an amazing scarcity of larger parks (more than 5 acres) in North Austin between 10th and 50th Streets. The loss of a park on Shoal Creek between 38th and 46th Streets was a terrible loss. See if better planning and watchfulness can remedy this situation.	Tag issue here	Tag issue	Tag issue	Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARD Long Range Planning Team	
11/26/2018	Patricia Galloway	I don't want to give you as much information as you ask for. One suggestion: please have a bus that goes to the Wildflower Center at least twice a day!!! Now, only people with cars can go there.	Tag issue here	Tag issue	Tag issue	Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARD Long Range Planning Team	
1/22/2019	Robert Naah	Where did staff get the ideas for what activities should be presented. Cricket? Really? Nothing against Cricket but where did that come from? Why not Croquet? What about flexible grassy areas that are mowed more frequently and can be used by people organically? Not programmed.	Tag issue here	Tag issue	Tag issue	Hi Robert, This is Kim McKnight. I hope you are well. Thanks for your question. We worked with our staff and consultant on this list of activities. We did our best to include all the different types of activities presented "open lawn" as one option to allow for lawn games as you described. The reason cricket was included is that we have a growing population of people from countries such as Pakistan and India where cricket is popular and are doing our best to be inclusive. We do appreciate you taking time to respond. Best regards, Kim	
4/25/2019	Sally Velasquez	I live at South Park Meadow Subdivision. Our community would like a park representative to visit with us about the 10-year Plan of Austin's Park and Recreation and provide input regarding Mary Moore Seagrath park for improvements and the creation of the proposed Master Plan. I can organize and gather our residents to attend. Please consider Saturday May, 4th perhaps at 10:00 a.m. or another time/date to accommodate this possibility. Location: Corner of Alex Lane and South Park Meadow Dr. lawn. I can be reached at 512/913-2223	Tag issue here	Tag issue	Tag issue	Thank you for your email and interest in PARD's Long Range Plan. We have our second round of community meetings coming up May 2-4. It would be great to see you and your community members attend. Additionally, we have pop-up events confirmed throughout the community. All the dates are below. Below are the dates of upcoming events. As we have three public meetings on May 4, we cannot attend a meeting with your community members this weekend. If you cannot attend, I can check on staff's availability to meet with your group in coming weeks. Thank you for reaching out. Mary Moore Seagrath is a special park and we appreciate your interest and support. Community Engagement Our Parks. Our Future Community Meeting Series #2 We will be hosting meetings across Austin to hear from you about what Austin's parks, facilities, and programs mean to you. Join us at one of the 5 meetings below: Thursday, May 2, 2019 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM South Austin Senior Center 3911 Manchaca Rd. Austin, TX 78704 Friday, May 3, 2019 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Anderson Mill United District Center 11500 El Salido Pkwy. Austin, TX 78750 Saturday, May 4, 2019 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM Circle C Community Center 7817 La Crosse Ave. Austin, TX 78739 Saturday, May 4, 2019 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM East Austin Temple 6720 N. Capital of Texas Hwy. Austin, TX 78731 Saturday, May 4, 2019 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Austin Recreation Center Shoal Creek Blvd. Austin, TX 78701 Pop-up events YMCA East Communities Splash Day 5315 Ed Bluestein Blvd 5/18/2019 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM Southeast Branch Austin Public Library 5803 Nuckolls Crossing Rd 5/11/2019 4:00 PM Ruiz Branch Austin Public Library 1800 Gore Blvd 5/16/2019 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM ACC Highland 6101 Highland Campus Dr. 5/9/2019 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM North Village Austin Public Library 2505 Steek Ave 6/7/2019 9:00pm - 6:00pm	
4/29/2019	Louis Rigler	I am a 47 year resident and homeowner of Austin. I have worked with the city over that time with the Parks and Recreation department. I have been involved in the planning process and I understand the City Parks dept. is taking input for long range (10 year) park planning. I wish to be heard on this topic regarding disc golf in the parks. I think we should have short 9 & 18 hole courses for beginners, kids, and families! I support 9 & 18 hole intermediate and championship level courses! And perhaps multiple courses in the same parks for different skill levels. I would hope that this level of communication should be sufficient to be heard, and counted, and not require my attending Parks public meetings.	Tag issue here	Tag issue	Tag issue	Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARD Long Range Planning Team	

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5/6/2019	Charles Wimbrow	The residents of the Dawson neighborhood are extremely distraught about the lack of action by the parks dept. over the last few years regarding the homeless taking over & destroying our park! homeless have taken over the bathroom building & the whole park in general & we want action to destroy the bathroom building now! Please remove the bathroom shelter at Gillis Park on Durwood St. As PortaPotties have been set up there for a few years now, the building for the plumbed bathrooms has become a homeless permanent camp & they're destroying the park area with litter, trash & alcoholics congregating everyday. It's a disgusting situation & the bathroom's in the building are locked every night to prevent homeless from sleeping & doing drugs in them. Please do something NOW! Please respond to me so I can post your reply to Nextdoor, please.	Bathrooms	Homelessness	Tag issue	Greetings Mr. Wimbrow, I wanted to let you know we are keeping track of your recommendations and feedback. We have forwarded your email to our grounds maintenance team. Concerns about homelessness have been prevalent throughout the planning process. PARO is working alongside other city departments for strategies to address this issue.PARO Long Range Plan Team	
5/21/2019	Lora Parra	How can I get a look at the plans for park improvements, master plan? No district found for the address provided.				Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARO Long Range Planning Team	
5/31/2019	Nelson Linder	NAACP Community Dialogue/ American Youth Works working with Texas Conservation Corps bring the youth's voice to the plan •Consult with the African American Quality of life commission not just UT for gentrification research. Talk to people in the community who have experienced it. •You should tell a more balanced story. Right now it feels like the one's who are responsible for gentrification are telling the story and making the plan. •Often times consultants cite best practices but who are these best practices for the city of the community? •Are you looking about preserving the history of the Old Freedman's town? •Are you working with the archivist? •Why are our pools on the east side opened and different times than other pools? •How will you keep and maintain the culture of our parks and neighborhoods? •Hestia Gardens is gentrified and not used. What are the plans for it? •All we need improved in most parks on the east side is lighting, safety, and sidewalks but when we ask for it we can't get it. •How can I get the lights fixed in Dottie Jordan Park? •Lieutenant Clayton Harris would like light bulbs replaced at Dottie Jordan	Tag issue here	Tag issue	Tag issue	Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARO Long Range Planning Team	
6/7/2019	Lee Frank	I have already sent in a complaint, it was last week, never heard from anyone. I have pictures of the pond. Kids like to play at the edge of the pond, if we had kids that is the last place I would let them be near. We are older people 91, 81, my husband has Alzheimers, I used to like to take him there, sit on the benches, try to walk, not now.Lee Frank	safety	Tag issue	Tag issue	Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARO Long Range Planning Team	
6/7/2019	Lee Frank	clean up that pond at north park Sheffield. Its disgusting, sort of like a cesspool	Tag issue here	Tag issue	Tag issue	Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARO Long Range Planning Team	
6/7/2019	Donna Johnson	I would like to see more money spent on cemeteries. They are a disgrace to Austin. I was born here and have many family members buried in Oakwood and Austin Memorial. Since my husbands death 15 years ago, the last nine years the grass has been replanted 5 times because they don't water, the sprinklers don't reach his grave, or a water line is broken. I use to go once a week. To water but have too many health problems now. When I inquire in the office, I am told the city doesn't have the money to install a new irrigation system, but they spend money on Joyce's trees and sidewalks that no one use (example the one from Slack to the Alford Walk). Donna Johnson	Tag issue here	Tag issue	Tag issue	Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARO Long Range Planning Team	
6/7/2019	Kristin McCollam	Hello Parks Dept. There was a survey out several months ago and I recall a news headline that people wanted more "natural" parks vs building on parks. I'd be interested in seeing the results. Can you kindly point me to where the results are posted? Thanks, Kristin	survey results	Tag issue	Tag issue	Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARO Long Range Planning Team	
6/7/2019	Irene Lozano	Hello, concerned on a Park started on Taxton Street and just abandon, now there's another lot that looks like trash on that road, which the road also is in need of repairs? Something needs to be done?	trash	vacant lot	Tag issue	Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARO Long Range Planning Team	
6/7/2019	Susan Morgan	Dear Sir or Madam - in response to the Parks Dept request for suggestions on future Parks Dept development. The subject vacant lot is currently used as a parking circle. This lot is being pursued by adjacent developers. If this lot is sold to the developer we will lose public use of this inner city lot for Rainey community uses, such as a park area with Pickle Ball courts. It is requested that the Parks Department reevaluate the possible uses for this lot that would keep it benefiting the Rainey Neighborhood. Looking forward to working with you to make the highest and best use of this City lot for the Rainey Neighborhood Respectfully SusanSusan M. Morgan Board President Town Lake Neighborhood Association (TLNA) Member Austin Neighborhood Council (ANC) smorgan512@bglobal.net	Tag issue here	Tag issue	Tag issue	Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARO Long Range Planning Team	

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6/6/2019	Sue Elter	I know we need to be thinking about future parks as the population of Austin increases, but it would be really nice to have the current parks maintained first. The roads in the Circle C Park off Slaughter Lane are horrible - pot holes, huge drop offs, etc. There are other parks with similar issues Parks and street maintenance are the kind of things our tax dollars should be going toward, not all of the pie in the sky ideas the current city council has. They need to focus first on the NEEDS of the city, and then if there is money left over, they can focus on WANTS. They need to stop increasing our taxes. They are contributing to making Austin unaffordable for everyone. I am not asking for more money, I am asking for the city to stop increasing the budget and not just keep asking for more money. Thank you for all you do with the parks! Sue Elter	maintenance	Tag issue	Tag issue	Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARC Long Range Planning Team	
6/26/2019	Cathy Medina	Dear Mr. Flannigan and Austin Parks and Recreation Board, Just read in Texas Government Insider, Volume 17, Issue 25, June 26, 2019, that Austin's Parks and Recreation Board unanimously approved on June 25 a new master plan for the Walter E. Long park for new amenities including a planetarium, Ferris Wheel, and water sports. zone. As an Austin resident for over 45 years, I feel this is a huge waste of money. I live across the street from the Pickfair Community Center on Pickfair Dr. in Northwest Austin owned by Austin's Park and Recreation Dept. and I have been asking our city councilman, Mr. Flannigan, for rights to be able to use the Pickfair Community Center for water sports and other amenities. I would like to see the park. We need park lights, and you are proposing a Ferris Wheel and planetarium. Let's fix the basic necessities in our community such as adequate lighting in our parks, before we build frivolous amenities like a planetarium, Ferris wheel, skeet shooting, amphitheater, sculpture garden, ropes course, and model airplane flying. Cathy Medina 512-576-2315 11006 Pickfair Dr. Austin, Texas 78750	Walter E. Long	safety	lights	Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARC Long Range Planning Team	
6/26/2019	John Alexander 6/26/2019 Dan McAtee	Open Northwest Pool sooner in the year and close it later in the year. March through October? Off leash areas for dogs are needed in East Austin. Most are on the West side - seems a little purposeful?	pool off leash dog areas	Tag issue Tag issue	Tag issue Tag issue	Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARC Long Range Planning Team	
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7/18/2019	Leticia Smith	Hi organizers, I live near Spicewood Springs Road and love hiking in the parks near me, especially St. Edwards park. Often I see bikers in Old Spicewood Springs Rd risk their lives for the thrill of riding the beautiful road, but there should be an assigned lane for bikers. There was already one death I know of near Yaupon. - Also, near the corner of Jollyville Rd. and Barrington Way, I often see people coming from the stores near-by, walking in the bike lane. In the shady road with black shirts they are hard to see. It seems like there should be a sidewalk to make it less risky for them. - You should invest in campaigns that teach uneducated people the damage their trash causes to the environment. You give them dog poop bags, so they pick-up the poop and then leave the bag in the beautiful countryside. In that case they should leave the poop to decompose naturally and not have it sitting on the ground for days. I have seen people throw away their trash, so much ignorance and nobody doing anything to create consciousness. Thank you for keeping Austin beautiful	trash	Tag issue	Tag issue	Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARC Long Range Planning Team	
7/18/2019	Chuck	The Gillis Park Swimming Pool is in dire need of at least one or two Concrete Table/Bench's. There's absolutely no benches for sitting near the pool nor is there any sustainable concrete tables for families. Our community would appreciate very much having these simple structures added to our small community pool. Could the Parks & Recreation Dept. please attend the next Dawson Neighborhood meeting on Aug. 12, 2019 at the Dawson Elementary School in the auditorium at 6:30PM. Regards, 2420 Wilson St. 78704	pools	Tag issue	Tag issue	Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARC Long Range Planning Team	
7/18/2019		Made a suggestion some months ago concerning the tennis courts in Ships Park. The nets were old and the post that held them up were "old style steel". One of the courts was upgraded with new nets and removal of the old middle steel post. I don't know if my email was responsible for this. If so I thank you. Any chance of the next court being upgraded. It would be great to have both courts the same. Thanks again.	tennis	Ships Park	Tag issue	Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARC Long Range Planning Team	

Date	Name	Comment	Topic Tag issue here	Topic Tag issue	Action/Resolution/Response	Second Communication
7/18/2019	Ray	One of my neighbors has just requested that I place the conversion of flood buyout properties in the South Manchaca Neighborhood Plan geographic area into parkland on our July 31st meeting agenda. See link below https://southmanchacaonline.wixsite.com/website There is an inflexible July 24th deadline for finalizing the agenda, so I am gathering information as quickly as possible. I consider this appropriate for consideration by the SMNP contact team due to the zoning change from, e.g., SF-3 to P-1. I looked at a couple of our flood buyout properties and that change has not yet occurred. Since I read council agendas, I know I see zoning changes in other parts of Austin and I am not sure why this one is not. So I am asking the council to consider the zoning of our flood buyouts to parkland, how do we get on the council agenda to get the zoning of our buyouts changed? After the zoning change, how do we proceed from that point to having these properties designated parkland? Besides any info you might have on this subject, to whom might I address these questions? Is there a CoA staff person who presents info on this topic who might attend our July 31st meeting?	Tag issue here	Tag issue	Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARC Long Range Planning Team	
7/19/2019	Sally	Many of the tennis Leagues are finding it a problem to get court space in the mornings. Leagues play only in the mornings! The growth of Austin is not keeping up with the need for more tennis courts! I want to double the population, so?? What plans are there in this regard?	Tag issue here	Tag issue	Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARC Long Range Planning Team	
7/20/2019	Teresa	Please stop selling out our parks for money! Move ACL! You could have it at Auditorium Shores instead of Zilker and not close down a major street like Barton Springs Road! You could close down Riverside, but then traffic could still travel on Barton Springs. There could be a couple of sand volleyball courts, a green space for frisbee, NO! (graded) area for sports, have a couple of bands at the Butler Park, some where the movies are shown and a stage or two in front of Palmer Auditorium! Or move ACL to COTA!!! We could use more sand volleyball courts also. And more green space to kick a ball around, or throw a frisbee!	Tag issue here	Tag issue	Thank you for taking time to share your feedback with the Parks and Recreation Long Range Planning Team. Please know that your feedback is important to us and will be documented and considered as part of the planning effort. If you haven't already signed up for updates, please visit the website at http://www.austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks . Thank you again for helping us plan the future of Austin's park system! Best regards, PARC Long Range Planning Team	
8/1/2019	Jeffery Bowen	Any meeting planned for District 8? or How about District 9? Your last event was at the South Austin Senior Center. Please let me know. Sincerely, Jeffery L. Bowen	District 8	District 5	Jeffery, Below is the message I sent via Facebook this morning. If you have additional questions, feel free to respond on whichever is easiest. Jeff, apologies for the lack of response on the email. We recently went through some transitions and are catching up on that one. Regarding pop-ups, we are still finalizing some of them. Initially we were planning on having pop-ups in all districts where we did not have one of the final meetings. The final meetings were in District 8 and District 1. However, we did end up having pop-ups at other PARC community events in both District 1 and District 8. For District 8, we had it at the Circle C Playground Improvements meeting on August 1, which was held at the Circle C Community Center. My apologies that we did not have a meeting in District 5. We are still working on finalizing the schedule, but where people will already be who may have an interest in parks and facilities, which is why we chose to have these pop-ups at this time. There is still time to review and comment on the recommendations and plans through http://austinfutureparks.org . I will follow up this message by responding to your email as well. I also realized, I did not mention District 5. We are still looking for a location and time for this one. The first few attempts have not panned out, so we are still scheduling this one. Sincerely, Justin Schneider	

Email Comments Prior to Draft Plan

Date	Name	Comment	Topic	Topic	Topic	Action/Resolution/Response	Second Communication
8/12/2019	Jeffery Bowen	<p>Mr. Schneider,</p> <p>Thanks for your response.</p> <p>First, I need to let you know that I am a Sector rep for Austin Neighborhoods Council. Sector 8 which includes part of District 5 and most of District 8. Boundaries - West of Maricacha, South of Ben White, City Limits South and West.</p> <p>There are 10 sectors in the council, with over 60 neighborhoods.</p> <p>Here is the issues surrounding this whole process.</p> <p>Parks had numerous events to get public input, which I attended the one at South Austin Senior Center.</p> <p>You (attendees) provide feed back and ask questions to the staff. Which staff "SAYS" they will get back to you and never do.</p> <p>I had several questions which "NO ONE" could answer.</p> <p>So now Parks or whom ever crunches the data received to come up with a plan.</p> <p>Now individuals are notified (through email or other methods) about reviewing the outcome.</p> <p>I received the first notification email (August 1) regarding the review process and sent the notice to all the neighborhoods in my sector.</p> <p>Nothing there was no events, not even anywhere close, to where one of original get together s was or in District 5 & 8.</p> <p>I did send an email regarding this on August 1. With the answer way above. Which really does not say much.</p> <p>Was willing to help in notification of an event.</p> <p>I did see there was a "Pop Up" at:</p> <p>District 5: Hoppin' House / Traditional Martial Arts Academy</p> <p>Brodie Oaks Shopping Center</p> <p>4040 S Lamar Blvd B, Austin, TX 78704</p> <p>Do not see a time or date this was held. Was it actually held?</p> <p>This was in District 5, but no date or time. WHY?</p> <p>The only way I saw this was from the response from some unknown person that replied.</p> <p>Does Austin Parks really want the input from the tax payers and users?</p> <p>I have seen, first hand, that very few provide the input that EFFECTS the mass.</p> <p>I have to go to a meeting when NO ONE answers questions at events or can even explain the presentation material.</p> <p>In regards to the "Pop Up" at Circle C. How many people participated?</p> <p>What type of turn out was there already at their community park?</p> <p>The point is that PARD wants the feed back. The methods used for feedback indicate they (PARD) do not.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jeffery L. Bowen</p> <p>ANC, Sector 8 Rep</p> <p>512-280-8640</p> <p>512-422-3004 / cell</p>	District 8	District 5	Pop-up	<p>Jeffery,</p> <p>The District 5 pop-up has not happened yet. We had a tentative "yes" with no date for Brodie Oaks Shopping Center, but the follow-up resulted in this location not being possible at this time. We are currently in the process of finding another location. Do you have any suggested locations that might be good opportunities to connect with community members? I would be happy to look into those opportunities.</p> <p>The Circle C meeting had about 25-30 folks come through with additional people encouraged to visit the website. The park playground meeting was regarding the Circle C Metropolitan Park, so notice was sent citywide through Nextdoor and Facebook.</p> <p>I'm sorry that your previous questions went unanswered. If you are still looking for those answers, please let me know. We have received a ton of tremendous feedback across the city, and we are not done yet. Despite the frustration you have experienced, we are looking for additional comments and feedback on the draft Long Range Plan.</p> <p>As soon as we schedule the District 5 pop-up, I will let you know. This is my district, so I am eager to get this one done as well.</p> <p>Justin Schneider</p>	<p>Jeffery,</p> <p>We were finally able to nail down the district 5 pop-up meeting. It will be happening tomorrow afternoon/evening at the Southpark Meadows Common Area near Amy's Ice Cream and Mama Fu's from 4 to 7 p.m.</p> <p>I hope you can make it. And hopefully it will jog your memory on the questions you asked. I would like to find some answers for you.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Justin Schneider</p>
8/30/2019	Jeffery Bowen	<p>Are the big Banners going to be there that were at the roll out at the South Austin Senior Center?</p> <p>Jeffery L. Bowen</p> <p>ANC, Sector 8 Rep</p> <p>512-280-8640</p> <p>512-422-3004 / cell</p>	District 5	Pop-up	Banners	<p>Jeffery,</p> <p>I will find out what banners they are bringing and let you know. I will not personally be there, so I will need to verify.</p> <p>Justin</p>	
8/31/2019	Jeffery Bowen	<p>Justin,</p> <p>WHAT HAPPENED? NO ONE SHOWED UP FROM PARKS?</p>	District 5	Pop-up	No-show	<p>Jeffery,</p> <p>Can you give me more details? What time were you there?</p> <p>I'll be sure to follow-up immediately.</p>	
9/1/2019	Marian P. Johnson	<p>We really need a fenced in dog park in or near Angus Valley. There are a lot of dogs in this area and at the end of Black Angus Dr is a perfect spot, already used as an impromptu dog park, just needs a fence.</p> <p>Thank you for consideration.</p> <p>Marian P. Johnson</p> <p>12122 Black Angus Dr</p>	Dog parks	North Sub-Area	Tag issue	<p>Justin</p> <p>Marian,</p> <p>Thank you for sharing your input. Your neighborhood is in the North Sub-Area of the Long Range Plan. We will be adding a map of the map on our website and adding the following link: http://austinfutureparks.org. We will also record your comments and share them with the planning team.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Justin Schneider</p>	
9/2/2019	Melissa Quan	<p>We live in the 78729 zip code and we really need a dog park. I have two dogs, one large and one small, so a park that provide separation for different sizes would be great!</p> <p>Thanks</p> <p>The Quan's</p>	Dog parks	North Sub-Area	Tag issue	<p>Justin Schneider</p> <p>Melissa,</p> <p>Thank you for sharing your input. Your zip code is in the North Sub-Area of the Long Range Plan. You can find a map of the map on our website and adding the following link: http://austinfutureparks.org. We will also record your comments and share them with the planning team.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Justin Schneider</p>	

Email Comments Prior to Draft Plan

Date	Name	Comment	Topic	Topic	Topic	Action/Resolution/Response	Second Communication
9/2/2019	Jeffery Bowen	I was there at 5:20 pm. One of my neighbors was there at 4 pm and stayed till 5 pm. The note from Justin stated the Pop Up was from 4 to 7. Are you indicating that PARD personnel were there setup in the mini park in front of Any's at South Park ?	District 5	Pop-up	No-show	Jeffery, I will follow-up. The pop-ups are mostly put on by our community engagement consultant in order to help us with greater outreach. I am waiting to hear back on when they arrived, but it appears that they were there, so I will need to get more information about timing. Again, I apologize for this being a frustrating experience. In the meantime, do you have additional questions that I can help you with? Have you had a chance to look through the document online? If not, you can see the draft plan here: http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Parks/longrangeplan072919_Our_Parks_Our_Future_Draft_Plan_-_FULL__reduced_.pdf .	Jeffery, I just heard back. It looks as if the pop-up happened, but it was moved to the movie theater. I'm not sure if this was due to heat or some other reason, but either way, we are a little frustrated as well. I am copying Kim McKnight who the project manager overseeing the Long Range Plan. Kim might be able to help you out to see if there are additional ways that we can connect with you and your neighbor. Justin Schneider
9/2/2019	Jeffery Bowen	The bottom line - I sent out the information provided by Justin to over 20 neighborhood associations. Received a comment from one Neighborhood Association President, concerned about the short notice. So it was moved to the theater which is a long distance from Amy's. Not even a piece of paper stating it was moved? WOW. Thanks for at least getting back to me on this Justin. This is part of the frustration when it comes to giving feed back on programs that the voter approved. It appears that PARD really doesn't want the taxpayer's input. Would be nice to actually have a face to face conversation regarding this situation. Sincerely, Jeffery L. Bowen ANC Sector 8 Rep 512-422-3004 /cell	District 5	Pop-up	No-show	Justin Jeffery, Please accept my sincere apologies for this experience. As Justin explained, it appears that the location that was advertised was not where the team set up and there was no signage of any kind for our pop-ups. These are intended to be smaller scale booths at locations around the city that allow people to review some of the boards from our larger public meetings. We do have a local sub-consultant that has helped up with this aspect of the outreach as our staffing was inadequate and I am working to understand how this could have happened. We very much value our community member's time and input. For you and your neighbors to make an effort to come out and not find us where we said we would be is an unacceptable experience. May I call you to discuss how best we can reach out again. I can personally make myself available this Saturday (9/7) morning to meet with you and neighbors. Kim	Jeffery, Please accept my sincere apologies for this experience. As Justin explained, it appears that the location that was advertised was not where the team set up and there was no signage of any kind for our pop-ups. These are intended to be smaller scale booths at locations around the city that allow people to review some of the boards from our larger public meetings. We do have a local sub-consultant that has helped up with this aspect of the outreach as our staffing was inadequate and I am working to understand how this could have happened. We very much value our community member's time and input. For you and your neighbors to make an effort to come out and not find us where we said we would be is an unacceptable experience. We are planning another pop-up this Saturday (9/7) morning in your area to provide another opportunity for folks to learn about the plan. Following is the information. These are not formal public meetings, but an opportunity for us to go out into the community to meet people where they are. PARD Long Range Plan Pop-Up Cypress Neighborhood Park 9-11 Saturday September 7 7609 Longview Rd, Austin, TX 78745 We have provided a lot of opportunities online for people to plug-in online through our SpeakUp Austin page, but I appreciate that having a conversation with a planner in your own community is valuable. I am working to update our webpage with the additional pop-up event. Please feel free to send to interested community members. Take care, Kim

Date	Name	Comment	Topic	Topic	Topic	Action/Resolution/Response	Second Communication
	Laura Brookshire	I was taking the survey and the part of the surveyor that asks about our Neighborhood Park does not show Dick Nichols Park which is my neighborhood park. Is there a reason that park is omitted. Laura Brookshire	Tag issue here	Tag issue	Tag issue	Ms. Brookshire, I am sorry for the difficulty you had. Dick Nichols is technically classified as a District Park and was placed in the "District Park" category, but I recognize that many people use District Parks and even Metro Parks as neighborhood parks. Thanks for taking time to take the survey. The PARD Long Range Plan Team	

Report generated at: 2019-06-20 12:52:57 by COA Parks & Rec
Project: Our Parks Our Future: Austin Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan
ForumTopic: Station One: Welcome!

No.	Contribution	Author	Posted at	Agree	Disagree	Replies
1	Austin parks are important to us! I will never forget my 5th birthday at Zilker park.	cjw	02 May 2019, 06:02 PM	0	0	0
2	The Parks are a great place for Family to gather, But only if its safe. I Live in the Joslin Park area, and it is really nice, However, we continue to have some homelessness in the area, It has come to where every once in a while you may see some of the homeless passing through and some that come and visit the park and leave. Over all its a great park. What it needs is a community ability to put on Music events in the park that may give some of the people a chance to come out and visit each other and create quality events right in there neighborhood. I believe there are a lot of Kids in our community are surly talented but have no out lets to there greatness. I believe Parks should be a place to learn and play at the same time, meet new people that lives around you, And many other family events that can take place. It gives the community a place to host family events, to include children's events and many other things. I believe every park should have something going on in it during the summer especially when school is out.	WTNA	06 May 2019, 11:24 AM	0	0	0
3	Please remember the older aging folks. We request a quiet zone without scooters, crying children nor yelling. Our taxes have supported these park areas.	Wells	08 May 2019, 07:42 AM	1	0	0
4	The Shoal Creek greenbelt has meant so much to me and my family. My father and daughter explored the creek bed together many years ago, and the trail is my favorite place to walk. When I was a runner, I trained at Lady Bird hike and bike trail several times a week. The trail is another important place to preserve in Austin.	MH	08 May 2019, 09:34 AM	0	0	0
5	Cull the coyote population. It's out of control. More pets are found ripped apart or never found. Coyotes hunt more than once a night and will travel miles for prey. Maybe when they attack humans you'll do something.	CL	10 May 2019, 11:25 AM	0	0	0
6	I appreciate having a beautiful park like Zilker in the middle of Austin to take a walk or jog, and get away from the hustle and bustle of city life.	John	07 Jun 2019, 09:28 AM	0	0	0
7	Austin has hundreds of folks moving in everyday, so Parks are going to be over-used. Parks are also MAGNET for homeless and drug activity--there are dozens of homeless camps hidden in the woods and there is a lot of suspicious vehicle traffic. This stuff goes hand-in-hand.	Concerned	07 Jun 2019, 10:01 AM	1	0	0
8	Austin parks and trails are one of the best parts of the city but your plan must emphasize full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. We are now 29 years post passage of the ADA and the disability community is still struggling for access to these parks. You should be done by now, not having to be reminded.	Access is a civil right	07 Jun 2019, 05:16 PM	1	0	0
9	Please remember that golf is a way for all ages to participate/stay active. I play golf 4-6 times a week and love this activity and I am over 65. If it wasn't for golf, I would not be as active as I am. I would love to see more golf promoted. Many of the comments against golf are based on false information. Golf courses are so advanced in their environmental impacts and no one seems to change their ideas. Golf is not an elitist sport, but a sport that in Austin is affordable and a chance to interact with many different cultures/races/genders/financial statuses. It is the best opportunity to be the most diversity of all situations to be in an Austin Park. I learn so much from others when I play golf in Austin with others that are not like me. The consultant group that did the survey/planning at Walter E. Long was very negative about golf in all of their surveys and presentations. I hope that the future of Austin Parks and Rec are more realistic about golf for all ages in the future.	mngirwin	09 Jun 2019, 10:00 PM	0	0	0

10	<p>I attended the 5th Annual Adopt-a-Park Summit this year and really took away a lot of valuable information about the history of Austin through its parkland acquisition. I recommend PARD record it for a permanent online educational resource for new community registry groups and park adopters. It was very enlightening and informative.</p> <p>As a newcomer to both East Austin and Texas, when I started our neighborhood association primarily because of chronic issues effecting our neighborhood park's desired usability, I felt a lot of anti-gentrification heat. However, hands-down the single most effective thing that has helped me integrate the longterm native residents and newcomer community stakeholders is sharing my learning of the neighborhood and our park's historic legacy. Old-timers feel respected and open up to share. Newcomers who already have pride for the neighborhood they call home, start to have a better understanding of the people who helped build it before them.</p>	Jen	10 Jun 2019, 12:31 PM	0	0	0
END OF REPORT						

Report generated at: 2019-06-20 12:11:22 by COA Parks & Rec

Project: Our Parks Our Future: Austin Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan

ForumTopic: Station Two: Why Plan?

No.	Contribution	Author	Posted at	Agree	Disagree	Replies
1	Parks are one of the main draws that bring people to Austin. As the population grows and more tourist come to our city it's going to be important that we preserve the green space that we have. I don't like seeing that Portland has more parkland per person. We need to acquire more land as we become more dense.	cjw	02 May 2019, 06:06 PM	0	0	0
2	We need to preseve and expand the number of green spaces in Austin. This should be as high a priority as other resources needed to support the rapid population growth. Before creating baseball fields, we need to prioritize protection and planting TREES and maintaining natural areas.	MH	08 May 2019, 09:50 AM	1	0	0
3	It is important to acquire and preserve as much natural green space as possible, to insure that we have natural spaces for the future. It is also important to preserve all the wonderful parts of the Austin Parks system that are already established. Many facilities are in need of repair and updating-The Austin Nature and Science Center, The Zilker Botanical Garden, and others.	Silver	08 May 2019, 10:11 AM	1	0	0
4	Although I know a park is so much more, I consider a playscape a key feature of many parks. I'm curious why this isn't a metric that is compared above. I'd love to see how we compare on that metric.	JAR	01 Jun 2019, 10:30 PM	0	0	0
5	Preserving green spaces is important AND golf courses do that. There are so many benefits from the golf courses with all of there trees and the turf that provide producing more oxygen and also absorb carbon dioxide. There are many misconceptions about golf courses and their environmental impact. Things have changed so much that golf courses (due to them listening about our environment) are more beneficial now than another parking lot.	mngirwin	09 Jun 2019, 10:07 PM	0	0	0
6	Having had the benefit of having one of Austin Park's as my backyard I can honestly say preserving green spaces is critical as Austin continues to grow in population. Not just for people but for its wildlife and sustainability. I would request PARD review hours of operation that have direct impact to the survivability of urban wildlife. For example, spring months when nocturnal baby animals need to learn how to hunt for food or avoid prey from their parents and/or on a case by case basis specific parks located near big construction projects that push wildlife out and force relocation.	Jen	10 Jun 2019, 01:15 PM	0	0	0
END OF REPORT						

Report generated at: 2019-06-20 12:43:21 by COA Parks & Rec
Project: Our Parks Our Future: Austin Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan
ForumTopic: Station Three: What we've heard- are we right?

No.	Contribution	Author	Posted at	Agree	Disagree	Replies
1	Overall the comments from everyone seems right and doesn't surprise me. I most enjoy the natural spaces in Austin and the trails. It's important for us to have specific types of facilities to gather, play sports, and experience culture.	cjw	02 May 2019, 06:09 PM	0	0	0
2	I do not want any off-leash dog areas in 78744.	dsp44	08 May 2019, 07:32 AM	0	0	0
3	Off leash areas for dogs are not a high priority. Preservingand increasing safe, accessible, minimally developed greenspace is top priorities	MH	08 May 2019, 10:03 AM	0	0	0
4	I agree that safe, undeveloped green space with trails is my top personal priority. Most do not want more concrete, and I agree whole-heartedly, but I also want to speak out for kids who need access to inexpensive swimming pools in the summer. It's hot and kids need a good, clean way to be active and have fun. Most cannot afford to join private clubs or to have a pool in their back yard. It's important for Austin to maintain its pools. With the explosive growth of our city, I favor investing in new parks and our pools over making improvements to existing parks such as the patio you plan to install at Bull Creek District Park. Not only is it unnecessary to install a patio there to accommodate the neighborhood's desire to show movies in the park, it is an inappropriate use of this fabulous natural gem. It's unlikely that anyone other than the local neighborhood would schedule a movie there, and it's unfair to let them preempt the tranquil meditative experience of others so they can use a public resource for their private neighborhood event. Put the money where it's needed most in purchasing more land, and installing and maintaining our pools and trails.	cmh	09 May 2019, 04:22 PM	0	0	0
5	I agree that investing in new parks, play structures for children and pools are important. As I look at the map, I am struck by how few of parks and pools are located in Northwest Austin and other areas recently annexed. I also note the lack of a community center in this area. I agree with the other comment that not everyone can afford to join the private neighborhood pools located in some of these areas. I'd like to see investment made in purchasing land (or private club facilities from these neighborhoods if that makes more sense) for future parks, and developing play and swim space in areas of Austin that don't have them.	JAR	01 Jun 2019, 10:44 PM	1	0	0
6	Please make sure there is a generous amount of parking for a growing population, so everyone who wants to can enjoy Zilker park is able to. Parking around Zilker is an issue, especially at Barton Springs pool in the summer. Maybe think creatively on ways to incorporate more parking in an urban area like Seattle has with the city park built around the Intercity highway system.	John	07 Jun 2019, 09:35 AM	0	0	0
7	The debate about space for dogs is interesting. I see an equity issue beneath it, where families who do not house domesticated socialized animals don't need to take public park space for their dogs on or off leashes. But they do need open space for families to run and play. And safe parks. So if dogs need a safe area with a fence, in order to keep the other areas for families safe, then perhaps that should be the driving reason for fencing the dogs. But don't forget to provide more space for families than for domesticated pets. https://www.usnews.com/news/cities/articles/2019-05-22/how-dogs-help-keep-multiracial-neighborhoods-socially-segregated	Ano23	07 Jun 2019, 10:12 AM	0	0	0

8	Higher priority should go into pleasant, relaxing, verdant park space in the center of Austin. Space where people would enjoy strolling around, snapping photos, resting on a park bench. It's not so relaxing if the bench faces a trail full of joggers, power walkers, and bikes. The kind of parks and public gardens found in cities (smaller and larger than present-day Austin) of Europe, Canada, and Australia, and many U.S. cities too -- where they are popular with all age groups. "An oasis in the heart of the city" is a typical but true slogan. Such parks give non-central dwellers one more reason to consider coming downtown and are all-the-more needed as Austin densifies. We have the makings of such parks but much more monetary support is needed, and most are a little far to walk to (e.g. Zilker Botanical).	JDH	09 Jun 2019, 01:00 PM	0	0	0
9	I am a golfer. I play the COA golf courses. With the growth of Austin, I think there needs to be a plan include more golf courses in Austin. With the loss of Lions in the future, where will there be opportunities to play golf? There are many misconceptions about golf in this community. Golf courses are so much more environmentally friendly than in years past. Golf is a sport that translates to the broad range of ages and abilities. Golf is not an elitist sport awn many think. Golf is an opportunity to be more diverse in culture, race, and gender than any other sport that the city of Austin supports.	mngirwin	09 Jun 2019, 10:15 PM	0	0	0
10	Another priority is every park should have a quiet zone or meditation area with a special feature like a botanical garden or fountain. A healthy city is not only one of physical or cultural activity. As the city grows, so does the noises along with it. 2011 World Health Organization report called noise pollution a "modern plague." In silence we tap into our brain's natural auto default mode or what scientists refer to as "self-generated cognition" that is when we daydream, meditate, fantasize or create.	Jen	10 Jun 2019, 01:36 PM	0	0	0
11	I can't read any of the slides, but Austin needs more places for bikes to play off road, such as Mountain Bike Trails, Flow Tracks, Pump Tracks. I live in Mueller and there are no single track mountain bike trails within 5 miles of my home. So that means that if I want to go mountain biking, I have to drive my bike to the trails.	ijwtcaeog@gmail.com	11 Jun 2019, 10:36 PM	0	0	0
END OF REPORT						

Report generated at: 2019-06-20 12:53:50 by COA Parks & Rec

Project: Our Parks Our Future: Austin Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan

ForumTopic: Station Four: Investing in Existing Parks

No.	Contribution	Author	Posted at	Agree	Disagree	Replies
1	My hope is that Austin will affective and efficiently spend the bond dollars that voters approved. With the increase in demand and high cost of the land available, I'm concerned that the bond dollars won't go far to acquire and preserve more land.	cjw	02 May 2019, 06:12 PM	0	0	0
2	Please remove the bathroom shelter at Gillis Park on Durwood St. PortaPotties have been set up there for a few years now. the building for the plumbed bathrooms has become a homeless permanent camp & they're destroying the park area with litter, trash & alcoholic's congregating everyday. It's a disgusting situation & the bathroom's in the building are locked every night to prevent homeless from sleeping & doing drugs in them. Please do something NOW!	silver	08 May 2019, 12:37 PM	0	0	0
3	<p>I love that you are planning to score each park! I love how AISD assessed each school to prioritize needs, and I think the parks could use this assessment as well. I also hope you will put these into an area map to show regional access to types of facilities. For example, I live in Great Hills. It is 2.2 miles to my neighborhood Great Hills park if I'd like my children to enjoy a playscape. I live 2.4 miles to Bull Creek District Park if I want to go for a hike, with a few access points closer. But none within walking distance because I refuse to walk to a park on 360. I live 2.6 miles from Anderson High School if I hope to play tennis during non-school hours. During school hours I could head to Northwest park (4.7 miles away). If I'd like to swim in a public pool, I could head to Murchison, a distance of 3.6 miles away.</p> <p>Personally, I think these distances are a bit far to consider that I have local access to a park.</p> <p>I do have a nearby fire station on Bluegrass that has a decent stretch of grass with some shade trees 0.5 miles away. It sure would be nice if it had a play structure, perhaps a basketball court, or some calisthenic machines for the neighbors and the local fire-fighters.</p> <p>I imagine others in more recently annexed areas can claim worse commutes to nearby park facilities.</p>	JAR	01 Jun 2019, 11:02 PM	0	0	0
4	Please make adequate funds available for city pools also. City pools in some areas of the city seem neglected, which causes over crowding at better maintained pools within the city.	John	07 Jun 2019, 09:39 AM	1	0	0
5	<p>Green space is so valuable. We need to continue to provide areas that protect that space.</p> <p>Golf courses in the Austin area are green spaces too. I would like to see that Lions stays a green space in central Austin.</p> <p>There are many misconceptions about golf courses not being green spaces and environmental responsible areas. There are so many changes from practices years ago in golf courses that now promote more environmental responsibility. Those misconceptions are hard to change but if you look, you will find that this is true.</p>	mngirwin	09 Jun 2019, 10:25 PM	0	0	0

6	<p>Overall I think the focus areas and the scorecard performance metrics are on point. My one concern is that public safety will need to be a higher priority as the City's population increases. Having always lived in greater populated areas and a park person, I've always noted the crime that occurs in them. The City of Austin in generally spends the least budget on public safety and health and human services. Therefore, City of Austin Parks and Recreation [PARD] as residents who live near parks where crime occurs, find that 'crimes on parkland' aren't always a priority to a system already stretched in resources. PARD might want to start looking at how more populated cities make sure their parks are safe during hours or curfew as well as how they are monitored should a crime take place to help in the pursuit of justice. I also recommend PARD consider small neighborhood parks or parks in certain districts be open to a different set of rules to others. A great example is hours of operation seasonally with parks that have no lighting in a challenging part of town.</p>	Jen	10 Jun 2019, 02:05 PM	0	0	0
END OF REPORT						

Report generated at: 2019-06-20 12:55:14 by COA Parks & Rec

Project: Our Parks Our Future: Austin Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan

ForumTopic: Station Five: Existing Facility Distribution and Trends Impacting Park Planning

No.	Contribution	Author	Posted at	Agree	Disagree	Replies
1	These maps are interesting. Shows the extreme disparities in our city.	cjw	02 May 2019, 06:14 PM	0	0	0
2	more programming in 78744, better playgrounds, outside cover for playgrounds, more shade	dsp44	08 May 2019, 07:34 AM	0	0	0
3	Better maintenance if existing city run pools for summer recreation in all neighborhoods throughout the city. Some pools, due to funding issues, have been maintained better than others. Access to a city pool is a great investment for everyone.	John	07 Jun 2019, 09:46 AM	2	0	0
4	In areas of gentrification I feel the elderly are greatly left out new activities and spending in the parks. I would like to see some activities that celebrate Austin Park's first community stakeholders historic contributions to respective communities and the City's growth planned for its too late. There are many park's anniversary's coming up. Instead of waiting for the 100th Anniversary mark, consider a 90th Celebration so elders can celebrate with Austin's future today, their great grand-children.	Jen	10 Jun 2019, 02:21 PM	0	0	0
END OF REPORT						

Report generated at: 2019-06-20 12:52:15 by COA Parks & Rec
Project: Our Parks Our Future: Austin Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan
ForumTopic: Station Six: Central Sub-Area

No.	Contribution	Author	Posted at	Agree	Disagree	Replies
1	<p>Adding lighting to well-used trails in parks (trails that have evening and nighttime usage by pedestrians or cyclists). Our park system could also integrate into our pedestrian and bike infrastructure. Where else in the city are cars entirely absent? I think this presents a great opportunity to encouraging cycling and walking. No space to compete with cars!</p> <p>For example, I often bike along the Barton Springs portion of the Town Lake trail in the evening. It's the best way to get from Barton Springs to the Pfluger ped bridge. There is no lighting, so it's a bit precarious at night, and the loose gravel can make it scary. This isn't the trail I'm suggesting you develop, but I really encourage you guys to look at routes like this through parks and see where we can extend our high-quality cycling and pedestrian infrastructure.</p> <p>A great example of something like this is the new, wide, lit path along Shoal Creek near Seaholm. More of that! :)</p>	caderitter	03 May 2019, 11:05 PM	0	0	0
2	<p>I would like to see Bull Creek further developed to have improved trails that connect the various access points. At the access points I'd love to see improved parking, playscapes at various access points, picnic tables, and quality restroom. Obviously you would build these at higher elevation points that are less prone to flooding. I think with better-marked trails, alternate fun activities, and more reminders of appropriate park usage (no glass bottles, swim diapers, stay on trails, dogs on leash where appropriate) it could encourage people to take more pride in our park. Currently the park can be overrun on the weekends. It lacks sufficient parking for all users.</p> <p>Bull Creek is big enough to support a community garden.</p>	julierange	02 Jun 2019, 12:15 AM	0	0	0
3	<p>Do better with ADA. especially at Big Stacy. The north entrance should remain open and a walkway built to that entrance. That is a much shorter flatter easier entrance. The womens handicapp shower needs alot of improvement. It needs a large dressing bench. The one in there now is only the size for a child. Very hard for a disabled person to sit and dress on that tiny seat. I know there are a few extra large benches that are not in use. One of those could be put in womens handicap shower.</p>	Yahooserious	07 Jun 2019, 09:49 AM	0	0	0
4	<p>We need to have more open wild spaces. Texas has some beautiful prairie type environments that should be saved. Just to be in nature is good for mental health, I feel so much more relaxed when I've wandered through a native Texas environment. The Walnut Creek area is wonderful but a long drive from here. Giving more space to off leash dogs does two things, it allows the dogs exercise and it gives the owners exercise. Now that the council appears to be favoring high density development it becomes even more important to plan for open spaces. Parks around the world were conceived of as an outlet for the large urban areas that arose in the 19th century. That aspect of parks should not be forgotten.</p>	Mirk	07 Jun 2019, 04:54 PM	0	0	0
END OF REPORT						

Report generated at: 2019-06-20 12:51:21 by COA Parks & Rec
 Project: Our Parks Our Future: Austin Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan
 ForumTopic: Station Six: North Sub-Area

No.	Contribution	Author	Posted at	Agree	Disagree	Replies
1	<p>It's great to finally see a map with sufficient detail! I'm scratching my head that my home off Bluegrass in quadrant 4 is not considered park-deficient. I have no PARD park within walking distance. I assume you wouldn't count the Golf Club facilities since only members can use their facilities. Am I hiking through backyards or the golf course to a creek? Am I walking down 360? My nearest park is 2 miles away. As I compare my situation to others around the map, I question the methodology that created this map. Certain areas are marked as park-deficient that look very close to green parks, and others lack marking but similarly have no parks within walking distance. I also find it suspect that several that lack park-deficient markings appear to be well developed with homes, and others without any development on them appear to need parks. That seems backwards to me.</p> <p>But back to my area on Bluegrass. My closest parks are 2 miles away. I don't count a hike through off-trail back country to creek buffer a legitimate expectation to access a 'park.' What I would love to see is a pocket park installed by our local fire station on Bluegrass. This is 0.5 miles from my home (and many nearby homes). I'd love to see this park have a covered play scape with nearby tables, a basketball court, and calisthenic equipment that could also be used by the local firefighters. A tennis court would be amazing too, but I think it would be a stretch to fit it in.</p> <p>I imagine there are other areas of town that lack park, but City fire stations may have extra space that could be used for a</p>	JAR	01 Jun 2019, 11:52 PM	0	0	0
END OF REPORT						

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Project: Our Parks Our Future: Austin Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan

ForumTopic: Station Six: Northeast Sub-Area

No.	Contribution	Author	Posted at	Agree	Disagree	Replies
1	I mostly use Metz park playground and the town lake trail in this area. We need more access to playground for small children. Yard sizes are smaller on this side of town. The trail access to town lake trail needs to be improved drastically. It's easy to get lost and not know where to go around Holly Power Plant.	cjw	02 May 2019, 06:17 PM	0	0	0
END OF REPORT						

Report generated at: 2019-06-20 12:45:36 by COA Parks & Rec

Project: Our Parks Our Future: Austin Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan

ForumTopic: Station Six: Southeast Sub-Area

No.	Contribution	Author	Posted at	Agree	Disagree	Replies
1	I want more investment in improvements at all parks in 78744: ponciana, kendra page, dove springs, pastor craig and more access and better maintenance. I want all new parks in 78744. I do not want any off-leash dog areas in 78744.	dsp44	08 May 2019, 07:27 AM	0	0	0
2	<p>Improve Access: Please invest in the community circulation pattern along the Pleasant Valley corridor that connects Dove Springs Park and Onion Creek Green Belt. The William Cannon intersection needs improved ped/bike crossing infrastructure as well as improved car circulation b/c there is too much traffic. This corridor connection should be a priority because it will improve the connection between Mendez middle school, Widen Elementary, the Rec Center, the Library and the Fire Station, as well as the surrounding communities that use the park and Pleasant Valley, to the larger Onion Creek Greenbelt and Metropolitan Park.</p> <p>New Park Location: In 20 years, i could imagine this "park" to be a pedestrian/bike flyover bridge that spans William Cannon, similar to the one that spans 183 to connect 51st and YMCA/Walnut Creek. It would streamline and secure connections between Dove Springs and Onion Creek Greenbelt to the south, as well as the Onion Creek Soccer Fields to the east and Williamson Creek Greenbelt to the west.</p>	agustin	11 May 2019, 07:46 AM	0	0	0
END OF REPORT						

Report generated at: 2019-06-20 12:45:36 by COA Parks & Rec

Project: Our Parks Our Future: Austin Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan

ForumTopic: Station Six: Southeast Sub-Area

No.	Contribution	Author	Posted at	Agree	Disagree	Replies
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END OF REPORT						