



## PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**DATE:** *December 2019*

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### MASTER PLAN UPDATES:

#### **PARD Long Range Plan – Our Parks Our Future**

PARD's Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities and Programs was unanimously adopted by City Council on November 14, 2019. As a reminder, this is the Department's Long Range Plan that is developed every 10 years and provides a blueprint to guide land acquisition, capital improvements and the development of programs and new amenities. Additional information and the Long Range Plan can be found at the project's website: <http://austintexas.gov/austinfutureparks>

#### **Walter E. Long Metro Park Master Plan**

The Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park Master Plan remains on hold until further notice, but is ready to be presented to the City Council. Additional information can be found at the project's website: <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/walter-e-long-park-master-plan>

#### **John Trevino Metro Park Master Plan**

PARD will host the fourth community meeting at the park on Saturday, December 7, 2019 from 10 am to noon. The consultant will unveil the draft plan recommendations prior to finalizing and presenting to the Parks and Recreation Board. Additional information about the plan can be found at the project's website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/JohnTrevinoMetroPark>

#### **Scenic Brook Pocket Park**

The master plan for Scenic Brook Pocket Park is currently underway and will be completed in 2020. Austin Parks Foundation (APF) has partnered with PARD to fund and facilitate the master planning process with the community.

#### **Statewide Recognition and Award for Brush Square Master Plan**

The master plan for Brush Square was adopted by City Council on March 28, 2019. The plan envisions Brush Square as a unique park yet complimentary to the two other remaining historic public squares from the 1839 Waller Plan for the City of Austin. Shaded, small gathering spaces will be abundant as places of respite for nearby residents, workers, transit users, and event attendees. The Brush Square master plan was awarded a Planning Achievement Award in Urban Design by the American Planning Association (APA) Texas Chapter at the annual Planning Conference in Waco, on November 8, 2019. For more information regarding this statewide recognition can be found at the project's website: <https://austintexas.gov/news/statewide-recognition-austins-brush-square-master-plan>

## DEVELOPMENT UPDATES:

### **Dove Springs Recreation Center Expansion**

Among the community's top priorities for the Dove Springs Recreation Center Expansion were to provide additional space for programming activities and to better integrate the center into the surrounding park landscape. Construction began in early August 2018, and the Recreation Center is expected to re-open to the public in early 2020.

The scope of the recreation center project includes the build out of a new dance and fitness studio, a large covered porch, commercial grade kitchen, a mobile study area for visitors, reconfiguration of staff spaces and control desk, new gymnasium flooring, as well as building systems and accessibility improvements to meet current code requirements.

This project is pursuing LEED Silver certification, and it is funded by 2012 G.O. Bond funds and a \$500,000 Urban Indoor grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

District 2



*Exterior view of the facility*

### **Montopolis Recreation Center**

The new recreation and community center will replace two aging facilities for the Parks and Recreation Department and Austin Public Health. The 33,000 square foot building will support the initiatives of both Departments by fostering mental and physical well-being through community recreation and the pursuit of healthy lifestyles.

Construction of the new Montopolis Recreation and Community Center began in September 2018, and it will be completed in summer / fall 2020. PARD staff moved out of the existing recreation center in September 2019, upon completion of the summer programs, and the demolition of the old Montopolis Recreation Center was completed in November. Window and door installations will be completed in December, along with roofing and drywall installation. Work on mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems is ongoing.

The project is pursuing LEED Silver certification, and it is funded by 2012 G.O. Bond funds.  
District 3

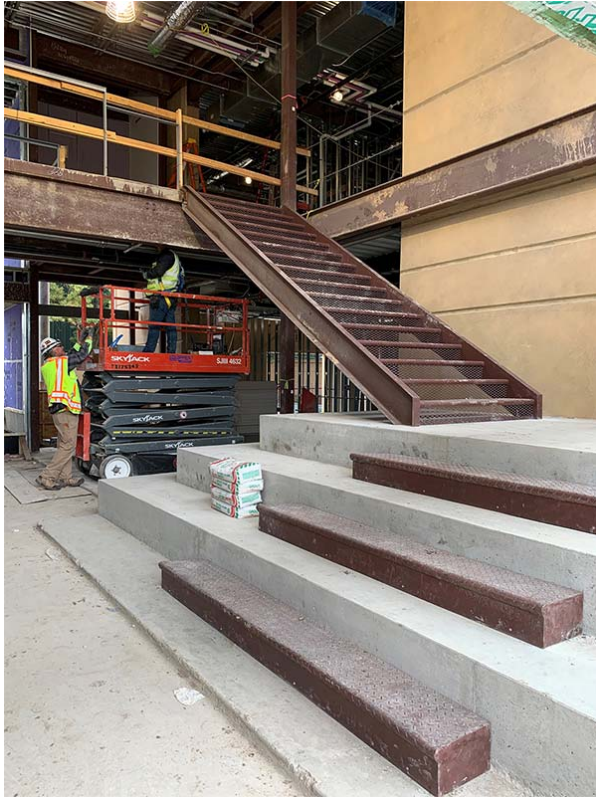


*View of the gym interior*



*Interior view of south building illustrating mechanical, electrical and plumbing installation.*





*Metal staircase installed in lobby*



*Lobby staircase/sitting steps concrete poured*

### **Walsh Boat Landing**

Notice to Proceed (NTP) was issued in September 2019 for the contractor, Rider Construction, to start construction. The project will replace the existing docks and provide ADA accessibility to the new docks including an accessible parking space. Work has progressed smoothly with the installation of environmental controls and tree protection. Demolition of the existing dock boards and framing has been completed, and it included the removal of the existing bulkhead. The existing piers will be reviewed by the project's structural engineer to determine their stability. Installation of the steel sheet pilings that will create the new bulkhead for the facility will start in December 2019.

The project is tracking for completion in late spring of 2020 and is funded through a matching Texas Parks and Wildlife Boating Access Grant as well as 2012 and 2018 G.O. Bonds.

District 10



*Installation of bulkhead sheet piles*

### **Urban Forestry Planting**

This fall 126 trees have been planted at three parks: 78 at Gus Garcia, 41 at Colony and seven at Barton Springs Pool. These efforts involved volunteers and partners. Another 150 trees will be planted this planting season.

## MAINTENANCE UPDATES:

### Red Bud Isle Reopens

Red Bud Isle reopened to the public on November 22, 2019. PARD made the decision after City scientists did not find any visible signs of floating blue-green algae mats near Red Bud Isle. Water samples taken on November 12 showed no toxins.

Dog owners who choose to allow their dogs in Lady Bird Lake should be aware that another harmful algal bloom might occur at any time in any part of the lake. The risk is highest when the weather is hot and dry for an extended period. Caution signs have been posted at locations where blue-green algae was identified, warning pet owners about the risk.

PARD closed Red Bud Isle on August 7, 2019, due to the presence of a harmful algal bloom on Lady Bird Lake. The closure coincided with the reporting of dogs who died after swimming in Lady Bird Lake. The Watershed Protection Department (WPD) detected neurotoxins in various algae samples taken from three locations on the lake from August to October. The abundance of algae on the lake has varied over the past four months, peaking in August with a second, lower peak in October. On November 12, there was no visible blue-green algae mats.

During the outbreak, the neurotoxin was only detected in the algae and not in the water itself. People have been able to recreate on the lake during this outbreak. People are not allowed to swim in Lady Bird Lake since 1964 (Ordinance 640611-C). Dog owners should be aware that all natural bodies of water pose a level of risk. Allowing dogs to swim in Lady Bird Lake, is done at the owners own risk.

For more on the status of blue-green algae blooms, symptoms of exposure, and other information, visit [austintexas.gov/algae](http://austintexas.gov/algae).

### Athletic Complexes

Havins Complex – Shade structure install (in process)

Krieg Complex – Multi-purpose field turf (planning/design stages)

### Treaty Oak Tree Maintenance

The Treaty Oak received some needed care from a large group of professional Arborists on November 8th as part of a volunteer work day that marked the 30th Anniversary of the Treaty Oak poisoning. PARD Urban Forestry staff, along with some of the top Arborists and tree care companies in Central Texas, worked to remove deadwood, squirrel damage and some crossing branches. The Texas chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture arranged the volunteer work day, while several arborists on site for the event were involved in the response to the poisoning 30 years ago.

## AQUATIC DIVISION

### Barton Springs

The pool will be undergoing a partial draw down cleaning on November 14, 2019.



**Bartholomew Pool** – Aquatic staff began opening Bartholomew pool to the public at 12:15pm on November 4, 2019, and will continue to do so, Monday through Friday, in order to accommodate pool patrons while Big Stacy Pool remains closed for maintenance. Staff will continue to open the pool at 12:15pm on weekdays through November 29, 2019, and will revert back to its regular opening time of 3:00 pm on December 2, 2019.

**Bartholomew and Dottie Jordan Pools** - The PARD Aquatic staff has added tension covers to the Recreation and Activity Pools. These tension covers provide added safety and deterrent from entering pools that are closed for the season, and also keep leaves and debris out of the pool. These tension covers will also free up pool staff by allowing them to accomplish other tasks during the Fall and Winter months.

**Big Stacy Swimming Pool** – The facility is scheduled to remain closed until December 2 while crews work on well pump maintenance, and install a new pool surface called Eco-Finish. Eco-Finish is known for its 10 year warranty, and for its smooth surface that is resistant to chalking and creates a long lasting seal. As a result of this fall closure, there will be no need for staff to close for a Spring Clean in 2020.

**Deep Eddy** - For the month of November, Deep Eddy pool began its revised hours of operation by opening its doors at 7am, in order to accommodate pool patrons during the Big Stacy Pool closure. Deep Eddy pool is scheduled to be closed on Dec 3-4, 2019 for maintenance purposes, and will reopen on Thursday, December 5, resuming its normal hours by opening at 9:00am. During Deep Eddy's brief closure for maintenance, pool patrons are encouraged to go to Barton Springs, Bartholomew, Stacy or Springwoods pools.

**Montopolis Swimming Pool** – A contracted vendor is working with the COA Aquatic Maintenance team to repair a broken lateral in the filter tank. This is an ongoing project with no definite end date.

**Garrison Swimming Pool** – The main fill line valve has been replaced but the job is still in progress as there is some work to be done on the pool side of the valve. The Aquatic Maintenance team expects the work to be completed by next week.

## **CEMETERY DIVISION**

**Austin Memorial Park** - Cemetery Operations is preparing to install and repair the roads at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery that are funded under the bond. Cemetery staff report anticipate the new roads to be installed in Section 12.

**Plummers Cemetery** - Cemetery Operations is currently documenting the condition of monuments at Plummers Cemetery, and the stabilizing and/or restoring of monuments that adversely affect public safety, as needed. This includes monuments that are actively tilting, partially buried (obstructing maintenance activities and causing tripping hazards), or those that are actively detaching and could possibly fall on visitors and/or staff. Cemetery staff will utilize this documentation to assist in verifying cemetery records and the location of interments. Cemetery staff also report they are trimming back vegetation so monuments along the tree line can be safely accessed.



**Evergreen Cemetery** - Cemetery staff successfully held their *"It's My Park Day!"* event at Evergreen Cemetery on November 2, 2019.





## PROGRAM UPDATES:

### Park Rangers



Park Rangers handled daily operations including over 244 regular contacts regarding Laws, Safety, Service and Education.



Park Rangers ran a total of 44 Leave No Trace centric programs in October 2019 with a total of 1,695 participants. These programs focused on providing information, safety and a connection with our Natural Resources in conjunction with PARD programming units, Watershed Protection, Austin ISD, and many more.



Upcoming Projects: Leave No Trace, REI and Park Rangers are partnering for community clean ups at Stevenson Nature Preserve, and Givens District Park on November 23, 2019, from 10 am-2 pm. For more information, please go to: <https://lnt.org/event/fall-cleanups-austin/>

### leave no trace

Leave No Trace HOTSPOT 2020 scheduled for March 5-10, 2020, on Barton Creek Greenbelt.

### Aquatics

**Lifeguards** - Aquatic staff report they began crossing their current Lifeguards to the new Star Guard Elite training during the month of November, and both the new and returning Star Guard Elite classes will be offered in December 2019.



## **EVENTS:**

### **Dove Springs District Park Mini Pitch Ribbon Cutting**

*November 16, 2019*

Through a partnership with the PARD PARKnership program, Soccer Assist, the U.S. Soccer Foundation, and financial contributions from Austin FC, Soccer Shots and the community, the Dove Springs Recreation Center now offers a new soccer/futsal court. Community support was coordinated by the Dove Springs Recreation Center in consultation with the Dove Springs Advisory Board. The court offers the neighborhood a new option for healthy play. This project was initiated as part of PARD's Community Activated Parks Projects (CAPP) program, which offers a way for the community to initiate improvements on parkland. Soccer Assist, an Austin-based nonprofit organization, submitted a CAPP in October 2018 to transform an underused tennis court at the Dove Springs Recreation Center into a state-of-the-art soccer play space.

### **Land Development Code – Work Sessions**

Continuation of the public review of the Land Development Code Rewrite.

Dec 3: City Council Work Session

Dec 4: City Council Work Session

Dec 7: City Council Public Hearing

Dec 9: City Council Meeting- First Potential Reading

### **John Trevino Jr. Master Plan Community Meeting #4**

*December 7, 10 am – noon*

*John Trevino Jr. Metro Park, 9501 FM 969, Austin, TX 78725*

The master planning team will share the preferred plan, which has been developed based on community input. The meeting will be in an open-house format with opportunities to ask questions and share thoughts and priorities with the team. There will also be opportunities to visit key areas of the site, including a rustic ranch building, open meadows, and spectacular heritage trees.

### **Comal Pocket Park**

*December 12, 5:30 - 7 p.m.*

*Chalmers Court South Community Room, 1801 E. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Austin, TX 78702*

PARD will present the proposed park site plan to the community for input. In addition, community members will be able to share preferences about playground equipment.

### **Beverly S. Sheffield Education Center at the Barton Springs Bathhouse Open House**

*December 5, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.*

*Zilker Metro Park, 2131 William Barton Dr., Austin, TX 78746*

As part of the Barton Springs Bathhouse Rehabilitation, the Sheffield Education Center, home to the Splash! Exhibit will be getting a facelift. The open house will provide an opportunity for community members to interact with the current exhibit and share what they love about it and how to capture some of those passions in the future exhibit that will be housed in this space.

### **Zilker Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony – December 1, 2019**

### **Trail of Lights 2019 Event Schedule – December 7, 2019**



## ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:

### Community and Engagement

#### Givens District Park Master Plan Phase I Implementation

A community meeting was held on November 13, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Givens Recreation Center. Community members were asked for input on Phase I implementation, which will include the playground north of the recreation Center, baseball field south of the recreation center, basketball and tennis courts along Springdale Road and Oak Springs Drive. In addition, community members were able to give feedback regarding ideas about interpretive signage in the park. The feedback time period ended November 22, and PARD is currently analyzing the feedback.

### PARD Partner Projects

#### The Trail Foundation – Rainey Street Trailhead

The third community gathering for the Rainey Street Trailhead project will be Saturday, December 14, 2019, 8 a.m. to noon near the Miró Rivera Restroom. This gathering will present a preliminary plan for the site. This project aims to improve and enhance the ecological function of the site while providing spaces for recreational use and improved trail connectivity for the growing area.

#### The Trail Foundation – Holly Project

The Trail Foundation will host a second community meeting at the Camacho Activity Center on Saturday, December 7, 2019 from 10 a.m. to noon. The proposed improvements anticipate the transition of the decommissioned Holly Power Plant into parkland and its impact to the Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail. In addition to providing an ADA-accessible realignment of the trail along the waterfront, the project will support the ecological restoration of the urban forest, natural areas and protection of the shoreline for wildlife habitat. Design concepts presented at this open house will provide functional and gathering space recommendations based on the community input received during the initial phase of the project. PARD and TTF have worked closely with the East Town Lake Citizens Neighborhood Association to find a time and place that work for the community.

#### The Trail Foundation – Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail Safety and Mobility Study

The Trail Foundation is partnering with PARD to conduct a safety and mobility study of the Butler Trail. Nelson Nygaard is contracted with TTF as the prime consultant on the study. The consulting team will kick-off in-person meetings during the week of December 2. During this week, the consulting team will conduct field inventory tours of the entire trail and meet with the project team from TTF and PARD. Christine Chute Canul, D’Anne Williams, and Justin Schneider will represent PARD.

### Grant Funding

#### Elisabet Ney Grant Funding

Austin’s iconic Elisabet Ney Museum was one of 13 sites to win \$150,000 in restoration grant funding honoring the legacy of women’s history from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The nationwide campaign showcased the centennial of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote, by engaging the public in preserving historic places. The Ney’s contest theme #ThroughTheseDoors to honor the inclusivity of its mission and Ney’s life, as well as highlight the





museum's doors, which the grant funds will help to restore. With your support the Elizabet Ney Museum received over 40,000 votes.

## **Concession Updates**

### **Town Lake Concession Solicitations**

The Texas Rowing Center concessionaire contract is set to expire in May 18, 2020. The Contract Management Unit is in the process of developing a draft scope of work and implementation schedule in preparation for the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a concessionaire to maintain and operate a boating concession on Town Lake.

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

The development of an Invitation for Bid (IFB) is underway to seek an organization, experienced in the management and operation of a recreation basketball tournament service for coed youth between the ages of 10 and 19. Services shall include providing the Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) a monthly, late-night tournament, free of charge, to coed youth residing in the City of Austin. The IFB will post on December 2, 2019, with a proposal due date of January 7, 2019. The no-contact period will begin when IFB is posted (Dec 2) and will end once the contract is awarded.