

OUR PARKS OUR FUTURE

AUSTIN PARKS & RECREATION LONG RANGE PLAN



2020-2030

WRT in Collaboration with:
PROS Consulting, Inc, Studio Balcones, Civic Arts, Adisa
Communications, ETC Institute, The Trust for Public Land

City Council Adopted
November 14, 2019



**AUSTIN
PARKS
FOUNDATION**



SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

PARK DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION	
Adams-Hemphill Neighborhood Park	develop and implement vision plan, improve accessibility and key amenities
Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail	complete implementation
Auditorium Shores at Town Lake Metro Park	renovation complete, revisit off-leash dog area following new standards
Barton Creek Greenbelt	improve access points, signage, wayfinding
Blunn Creek Preserves	improve access, trailhead, and nature play
Brush Square	master plan implementation; complete restoration of O. Henry Museum
Bull Creek District Park	master plan implementation
Butler Park	complete Alliance Children's Garden
Covert Park at Mt. Bonnell	landscape restoration and visitor enhancements - design and construction
Dougherty Art Center at Butler Shores	complete design and implementation
Duncan Neighborhood Park	master plan implementation
Elisabet Ney Museum	development of visitors center on north side of Waller Creek; complete restoration of doors and windows and rehabilitation of building systems
Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center	implement Phase 2 of the master plan
Grove at Shoal Creek	parks system master plan implementation, includes off-leash dog area
Highland Neighborhood Park and Reznicek Fields	implement Phase 2 of the master plan
Lamar Beach at Town Lake Metro Park	master plan implementation
Northwest Recreation Center	improve and add athletic fields and courts to enhance programming
Norwood House	rehab house, master plan implementation
Mayfield Nature Preserve	rehabilitate buildings, grounds, and ponds
Old Bakery Emporium & Visitors Center	rehab and plaza renovation
Pease District Park	continue master plan implementation
Perry Neighborhood Park	work with AISD to improve access
Reed Neighborhood Park	continue renovations
Seaholm Waterfront	master plan implementation
South Austin Neighborhood Park	master plan implementation, includes trail & multi-use field improvements
Steck Valley Greenbelt	improvements and pocket park development
Umlauf Sculpture Garden	rehabilitation of historic buildings
Veterans Pocket Park	implement Phase I development
Waller Creek Greenbelt	continue to collaborate on improvements (including Waterloo Park, Palm Park, Refuge, and Delta)
Walsh Boat Landing	implement improvements
West Austin Neighborhood Park	master plan implementation, includes addressing failing retaining walls
Wooldridge Square	master plan implementation

PARK DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION	
Work with AISD to implement parks at:	<p>Pre-K Schools: <i>Uphaus Early Childhood Center, Read Pre-K Demonstration</i></p> <p>Elementary Schools: <i>Webb Primary, Gullet, Reilly, Wooten, Pillow, Brentwood, Brown, Lee, Pease, Ridgetop, Dawson, Travis Heights, Zilker, Galindo, Barton Hills, Becker, Doss, Hill, Bryker Woods, Casis, Mathews, Highland Park, Austin State Hospital</i></p> <p>Middle Schools: <i>Lamar, Burnet, Webb, Murchison, O. Henry</i></p> <p>Middle & High Schools: <i>Richards School For Young Women Leaders</i></p> <p>High Schools: <i>Mccallum, Travis, Premier at Travis, Anderson, Austin, Travis County Juvenile Detention Center, Phoenix Academy, Leadership Academy</i></p> <p>Special Needs: <i>Rosedale</i></p>

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS	
Shoal Creek	reestablish the trail connection in landslide area

ACQUISITIONS	
Blunn Creek Greenbelt	acquisition and trail development
Lions Municipal Golf Course	with city leadership, acquisition/partner to retain open space
West and East Bouldin Creek Greenbelt	acquisition and trail development

New parkland within park deficient areas

MASTER PLANNING	
Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park	master plan, including Level 2-3 development
Butler Shores at Town Lake Metro Park	master plan
Gillis Neighborhood Park	including reinvestment in key amenities

PARTNERSHIPS	
Austin Parks Foundation	continue to collaborate
Downtown Austin Alliance	continue to collaborate
Norwood House Foundation	continue to collaborate
Pease Park Conservancy	continue to collaborate
Red Line Parkway Initiative	continue to collaborate
Shoal Creek Conservancy	continue to collaborate
The Trail Foundation	continue to collaborate
UT Austin: Brackenridge Tract	with city leadership, work with UT and Save Historic Mury District to retain golf and/or recreational opportunities
Umlauf Sculpture Garden	continue to collaborate
Waterloo Greenway	continue to collaborate

FEASIBILITY STUDIES	
Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail	explore feasibility of trail west to Red Bud Isle
Hancock Golf Course	study feasibility of golf and other recreational opportunities that can enhance sustainability of course

SHOAL CREEK CONSERVANCY

EST. 2013, FOCUSED ON SHOAL CREEK WATERSHED

MISSION: *to champion the Shoal Creek watershed in order to create a healthy and vibrant community.*

CURRENT KEY PLANS & INITIATIVES

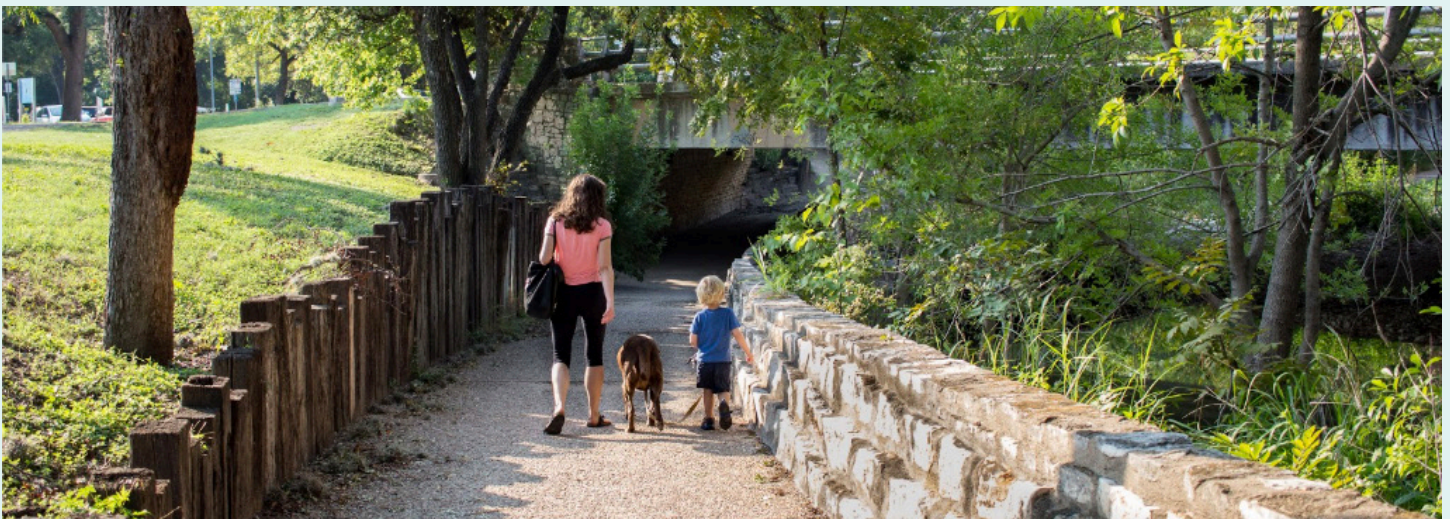
- + Create a Shoal Creek Watershed Action Plan to act as a guiding document to restore and protect the creek's water quality and address erosion, habitat, and spring flow challenges.
- + Implement projects outlined in the Shoal Creek Trail Vision to Action Plan to improve and expand the Shoal Creek Trail.
- + Create a public plaza with improved bike and pedestrian pathway at Cypress & Shoal Creek/rail trestle site.

PRIORITIES & GOALS FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS

- + Create a seamless network of wayfinding signage, so users can easily navigate the Shoal Creek Trail from street intersections, Lady Bird Lake trail, and the Northern Walnut Creek trail intersection.
- + Significantly increase the number of trail users and event attendees, expand park user base to more residents from other parts of the city.
- + Explore possibility of having concessionaires along the trail.
- + Add safety features to protect pedestrian and on-road cyclists along the Shoal Creek Trail's on-street sections.
- + Create a sustainable framework for maintenance of the creek, trail, and trail amenities.



**SHOAL
CREEK**
CONSERVANCY



Shoal Creek Trail
Source: Shoal Creek Conservancy

SHOAL CREEK TRAIL: VISION TO ACTION PLAN

NOVEMBER 7, 2018





The Duncan Park Focus Area calls for implementation the Parks and Recreation Department's Duncan Park Improvement Project, as well as some of critical improvements from the 5th to 15th Preliminary Engineering Report.

4.2 DUNCAN PARK FOCUS AREA

Background

The Duncan Park Focus Area extends north of West 6th Street along Wood Street up to West 10th Street, which forms the northern boundary of Duncan Park. Duncan Park and the 9th Street BMX area are a key node along the Trail that connects the historic Wood Street Settlement, the Old West Austin Neighborhood, and, the North Lamar Boulevard commercial corridor. Duncan Park is classified by the City as a “neighborhood park”, meaning that it is a smaller-sized park (5.1 acres) that is close enough to residents that they may access it by foot or bicycle. It has served the community for over 75 years with an open lawn, picnic tables and shade from its many mature live oak and pecan trees.

Since September 2016, the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department has undertaken a planning process for improvements to Duncan Park. Some of the amenities proposed in the *Duncan Park Preliminary Plan* include a trailhead pavilion with restrooms at West 10th Street, new seating, a boardwalk, a picnic pavilion, as well as enhanced riparian habitat zones.

The parkland was purchased by the City in the early 1930s, and in 1974, it was named in honor of Waco businessman A. Baker Duncan, whose first wife made a charitable donation from Mr. Duncan’s estate toward the park’s improvement. Duncan Park was divided into its two halves with the extension of 9th Street to Lamar Boulevard around the same time. Prior to that, the southern portion had been a nature preserve, per the desire of the Duncan family.



In the 1980s, Duncan Park expanded to include the preserve on the south side of West 9th Street. Today, it is known as the “9th Street BMX Park”, which includes bicycle jumps and trails built by local riders as a grassroots initiative. The 9th Street Locals, an unincorporated non-profit organization, has “adopted” it as part of the Austin Parks Foundation Adopt-a-Park Sponsored Fund Account (SPA). Just across the Creek from the BMX Park is Deep Roots Garden, a community herb and food garden for neighborhood residents and non-profit partners that is sponsored by Whole Foods Market. Its vision is to “create a production and teaching garden on the banks of Shoal Creek.” Harvested crops are shared among the garden’s participants.

Planning efforts today include the Duncan Park Improvement Project, as well as the *5th to 15th Street Preliminary Engineering Report (PER)*, which proposes \$25 million of improvements in this area, including a widened main Trail, ADA improvements and a new low-water crossing at West 9th Street. Building off the *Urban Trails Master Plan*, the primary goal of the *PER* is to assess the feasibility of widening one mile of the Trail to 12 feet of paved path, along with associated streambank improvements, as well as ADA accessibility improvements, such as the trailheads at 9th Street and north of 6th Street (see photo below). Overall, the *PER* recommends that the Trail alignment remain the same, with added improvements and access points.



Deep Roots Garden is just off of the main Trail, south of Duncan Park and on the west side of Shoal Creek.



The existing trail up to West 6th Street does not meet ADA or Urban Trail standards, and poses maintenance issues.

Goals for the Duncan Park Focus Area

During the second set of Technical Advisory Group, Community Advisory Group and community workshops held in September 2017, the goals for this focus area were developed:

- Interpret the nearby, early Latino and African American settlements, such as the historic Wood Street settlement.
- Work with REI, Deep Roots Garden and Austin Community College Rio Grande to create an outdoor classroom space.
- Add rain gardens to intersections and/or along the Trail length, as possible.
- Locate a trailhead with signage at Duncan Park on West 9th Street, immediately adjacent to Shoal Creek.
- Make explicit, through interpretive signage, the historical connections of this area to Pease Park and to Wooldridge Square.
- Tell the story of how Duncan Park came to be a public park, and of A. Baker Duncan and his first wife, Mrs. Francis Nalle, its donors.
- Develop interpretive signage to highlight nature in this area, providing wildlife and plant identification.
- Consider the needs for native habitat preservation, filtration and erosion control when making Trail width decisions: ensure that existing and new trails be “right-sized”, in terms of its specific environmental context.
- Ensure Duncan Park has both trail and street lighting, and that it is patrolled at night.



The Wood Street Settlement was located north of West 6th Street. Its remains (shown above) have since been removed. While these homes are now gone, a recently-dedicated Texas Historical Commission marker tells the story of this area.