



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**THRU:** Christopher Shorter, Assistant City Manager

**FROM:** Kimberly McNeeley, CPRP, Director  
Austin Parks and Recreation Department 

**DATE:** September 15, 2020

**SUBJECT:** History of Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Projects and Parkland Acquisitions

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This memo serves as a response to the request for information related to the Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) parkland acquisition and capital improvement program spending. The information below describe PAR's current process that prioritizes City equity goals when making decisions about investments in parkland and facilities. Furthermore, data collected and analyzed since 1998 present PAR's spending patterns in parkland and facilities during the last two decades. This memo describes:

- PAR's project evaluation and selection process;
- active parkland acquisitions;
- active, planned, and recently completed capital improvement projects;
- acquisitions and projects funded through the previous three Parks and Recreation General Obligation (G.O.) Bond propositions in 1998, 2006, and 2012; and,
- other highlighted initiatives

### PROJECT EVALUATION AND PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

In November 2018, City of Austin voters approved Proposition C authorizing \$149 million in G.O. Bonds for Parks and Recreation aquatic facilities, building renovations, infrastructure, parkland improvements, and parkland acquisitions. Following the approval of Proposition C, PAR developed prioritization tools to operationalize the guidelines and criteria described in City Council's Contract with the Voters ([Resolution 20180809-061](#)). Additionally, PAR's Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities, and Programs (2020-2030), *Our Parks, Our Future* that was developed from summer 2018 through City Council adoption in November 2019, was integral in further delineating system priorities, project priorities and parkland acquisition concepts following extensive community engagement and field assessments.

When evaluating potential **parkland acquisitions**, efforts are made to align evaluation criteria with key performance indicators related to park access. PAR emphasizes the following priorities:

- **Equity** – Prioritize socioeconomic factors such as vulnerable populations, income, and racial make-up of the neighborhood
- **Park Deficient Areas** – Reference the established, regularly updated mapping tool to evaluate quarter mile and half mile walkability
- **Greenbelt Acquisition** – Acquiring greenbelt space, especially to close gaps along creeks and waterways; and
- **Long Range Plan** – New land acquisitions align with recommendations made in PARD’s Long Range Plan to the greatest extent possible.

**Capital improvement project concepts** for the aquatics, building renovations, infrastructure, and parkland improvements categories are evaluated using a prioritization matrix and ranked against others in the same category using the following priorities:

- **Equity (1/3 of score)** – based on demographics and socioeconomic indicators in the park’s service area. Specifically, this category measures the population served, median household income, people of color served, and children served all relative to Austin medians.
- **Needs for Reinvestment or Renewal (1/3 of score)** – This category primarily considers the condition of existing assets and their importance to the park system. It also awards points for addressing safety issues, legal and regulatory mandates, potential generate cost savings or revenue, and particularly innovative concepts.
- **Health and Environment Indicators in Strategic Direction 2023 (1/3 of score)** – measures the applicability of projects to City Council’s specific strategic outcomes, including Improvements to amenities, fund leveraging and partnerships, increasing accessibility, and green infrastructure.

The attached scatterplots (Charts 1, 2, 3 and 4) provide a multi-dimensional graphic of PARD’s developed and undeveloped neighborhood, pocket, and school parks, active and completed projects, need for reinvestment or renewal, and equity indicators within the park’s service area. On Charts 1, 2 and 3, each point represents an existing, developed park. Sites further to the left are in worse condition and those near the top have a higher impact on equity. Condition assessments were completed between fall 2018 and early summer 2019. Point symbols indicate the status of projects within the park. Orange squares indicate a completed improvement since the assessments were concluded (scores have not been updated on the chart to reflect the increase). Green circles indicate an active project at the site. Grey diamonds are parks that do not have an active or recently completed project. The shaded blue area focuses on parks with below average condition and above average equity indicators, reflecting a high need for an improvement or renovation.

Points on Chart 4 represent undeveloped neighborhood and pocket parks. Parks further to the right score higher on Strategic Direction 2023 (SD23) indicators (serve communities that lack park access and/or have potential for partnerships or other alternative funding) and those closer to the top have a higher impact on equity. Parks closer to the top-right have the highest combined impact on equity and SD23 indicators, reflecting a higher need for new park development.

## **2018 BOND PROJECTS**

### **Parkland Acquisition Projects (\$45 million allocated)**

PARD is actively negotiating an estimated \$46 million in parkland acquisitions throughout the City of Austin. As a general rule, PARD prioritizes using parkland dedication fees, when available in the area, prior to Bond funding. This practice of leveraging makes the most efficient use of City resources. The breakdown

by area, acreage, and estimated cost of land currently in negotiations is shown in Table 1 and in the attached *2018 Bond Park Investments Heatmap: Active Parkland Acquisitions*.

**Table 1: Active Parkland Acquisitions by Area**

Area	Acres	Estimated Cost	Cost per Acre
West of Mopac	60.90	\$10,009,813	\$164,365
Between IH35 and Mopac	31.84	\$23,283,490	\$731,288
East of IH35	86.48	\$12,611,152	\$145,827

**Capital Improvement Projects**

The capital improvement project allocations in Tables 2 through 5 reflect anticipated 2018 Bond funding by project at this point in time. The overall geography of these allocations is shown in the attached *2018 Bond Park Investments Heatmap: Planned Capital Improvement Projects*. Projects with an asterisk indicate partial funding for the project coming from the 2018 Bond. Other major funding sources include Parkland Dedication fees, partnerships, and prior Bond programs. All active PARD CIP projects can be found on the City’s Capital Projects Explorer portal at <https://capitalprojects.austintexas.gov/projects>.

**Aquatic Projects (\$35.5 of \$40 million allocated)**

Aquatic projects will focus on renovations to existing facilities and the construction of a new pool in Colony Park District Park. The Aquatic Plan (approved in early 2018) identified Colony Park as the highest priority area for a new pool facility. The Plan also identified a set of critical pools at risk of failure in the near-term. Among the critical pools, the renovations at Govalle and Shipe were completed in 2020. These two pools received \$6.26 million in Certificate of Obligation appropriations from Council, but required additional resources from the 2006, 2012, and 2018 Bond programs to fully fund construction. In order of need, the Plan recommended next addressing the critical pools at Givens, Montopolis, and Beverly Sheffield Northwest. These recommendations aligned with City Council’s Bond guidance and considered the degradation of all the critical pools since the Aquatic Plan was approved. PARD has also prioritized the renovation of the historic Parque Zaragoza Bathhouse, which is currently out of service. The remaining funding will be reserved for other critical replacement needs that arise over the Bond implementation period.

**Table 2: 2018 Bond Proposition C Funded Aquatic Projects**

Project	Phase	District	2018 Allocated (millions)
Colony Park District Park Pool (new)	Design	1	13.2
Beverly Sheffield Northwest District Park Pool Replacement	Preliminary	7	9.0
Givens District Park Pool Replacement	Design	1	6.0
Montopolis Neighborhood Park Pool Replacement	Preliminary	3	5.5
Shipe Neighborhood Park Pool Replacement*	Completed	9	1.3
Parque Zaragoza Pool Bathhouse Renovation*	Preliminary	3	0.5

*Projects with an asterisk (\*) indicate partial funding for the project coming from the 2018 Bond*

**Parkland Improvements (\$14.8 of \$25 million allocated)**

Parkland improvement projects develop park features in alignment with a park’s adopted concept or vision plan. Projects also include the renovation or replacement of existing park features. If a plan has not yet been adopted, neighborhood and pocket park projects will include public engagement to complete a concept plan before design and construction begin. For district and metro parks and greenbelts, a vision plan will typically occur as a standalone effort and will include a phased plan for development over a longer period of time. Development of new parks or features will leverage Bond funding with parkland dedication fees, if available.

**Table 3: 2018 Bond Proposition C Funded Parkland Improvements Projects**

Project	Phase	District	2018 Allocated (millions)
Walter E. Long Metro Park Vision Plan Phase I Implementation*	Vision Plan	1	3.5
John Trevino Jr. Metro Park Vision Plan Phase I Implementation*	Vision Plan	1; 2	3.5
Givens District Park Vision Plan Phase I Implementation	Design	1	2.0
Colony Park District Park Improvements*	Completed	1	1.4
Duncan Neighborhood Park*	Design	9	0.8
Brownie Neighborhood Park* (field under construction)	Preliminary	4	0.7
Walsh Boat Landing*	Completed	10	0.6
Comal Pocket Park*	Construction	3	0.6
Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt*	Design	1	0.5
Rosewood Neighborhood Park Court Renovation*	Design	1	0.4
Brush Square Vision Plan Phase I Implementation*	Design	9	0.3
Beverly Sheffield Northwest District Park Vision Plan	Vision Plan	7	0.2
Many other park improvement projects in progress are primarily funded through other sources. 2018 Bond funding will be allocated to complete these projects, as needed, and if they meet the criteria established in the Contract with the Voters. Current active projects that are candidates for supplemental 2018 Bond funding include Alderbrook Pocket Park (7), Highland Neighborhood Park (4), Lakeline Neighborhood Park (6), Oertli Neighborhood Park (7), Pomerleau Pocket Park (1), and Scenic Brook Pocket Park (8). These active projects are expected to utilize over \$3.5 million in parkland dedication and partnership funding.			0.3 [for planning and design]

*Projects with an asterisk (\*) indicate partial funding for the project coming from the 2018 Bond*

**Building Renovations (\$11.7 of \$21.5 million allocated)**

The Building Renovations category prioritizes projects for the reinvestment and renewal of PARD’s recreation centers, activity centers, administrative and maintenance facilities, and other buildings on parkland. Since Fiscal Year 2019, appropriations from the Capital Rehabilitation (Deferred Maintenance) Fund have enabled PARD to focus 2018 Bond resources on larger renovation projects. PARD is planning to leverage the additional \$750 thousand approved for PARD facilities in the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget with Bond funding to make significant investments in facilities, including Delores Duffie and Rodolfo “Rudy” Mendez Recreation Centers.

The category also includes \$5 million dedicated to Accessibility Improvements to address physical barriers throughout the park system and progress toward the targets set in PARD’s ADA Transition Plan (adopted December 2016).

**Table 4: 2018 Bond Proposition C Funded Building Renovations and Accessibility Improvements**

Program	Project	Phase	District	2018 Allocated (millions)
<b>Building Renovations (\$16.5 million)</b>	Pharr Tennis Center Renovation	Design	9	4.0
	Norwood Estate Rehabilitation Phase II*	Bid	9	2.0
	Seaholm Intake Facility Phase I Rehabilitation*	Design	9	2.0
	Givens District Park Recreation Center Renovation	Preliminary	1	0.9
	Zilker Maintenance Barn Replacement*	Design	8	0.8
	Hancock Recreation Center Renovation	Design	9	0.3
	Northwest Recreation Center Retaining Wall	Design	7	0.2
<b>Accessibility Improvements (\$5 million)</b>	Walsh Boat Landing Restroom Renovation	Preliminary	10	0.4
	Austin Memorial Park Restroom Renovation	Preliminary	7	0.4
	Emma Long Metro Park Improvements*	Construction	10	0.3
	Other accessibility improvement projects have been funded at Bull Creek District Park (10)*, Edward Rendon Sr. Park at Festival Beach (3)*, Eilers Neighborhood Park (10)*, Little Stacy Neighborhood Park (9)*, Tanglewood Neighborhood Park (6)*, and Zilker Metro Park (8)*			0.4

*Projects with an asterisk (\*) indicate partial funding for the project coming from the 2018 Bond*

**Infrastructure (\$9.4 of \$17.5 million allocated)**

The Infrastructure category has been divided into specific programs that respond to the renovation, replacement, and improvement needs unique to each area.

- **Playground** projects focus on replacement of deteriorated equipment and compliance with current safety standards. PARD prioritized converting the remaining, non-compliant, pea gravel sites (32 in 2018) and replacing equipment at these locations, as needed. To date, 19 have been addressed, 12 have active projects, and the last will be initiated in this fall
- **Golf** projects prioritize replacing and renovating irrigation systems, greens, and other course features
- **Trail** projects will rehabilitate, improve, and construct new trails within parks and greenbelts, often in collaboration with Austin Transportation and Public Works
- **Athletics** projects focus on lighting, irrigation systems, fencing, and other replacements and improvements to improve programming at courts and fields citywide
- **Parking Lots and Roadway** projects renovate existing facilities in deteriorated condition, primarily through PARD’s Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity contract

**Table 5: 2018 Bond Proposition C Funded Infrastructure Projects**

Program	Project	Phase	District	2018 Allocated (millions)
<b>Playgrounds (\$4 million)</b>	Walnut Creek Metro Park Replacement and Nature Play Installation*	Design	7	0.56
	Circle C Ranch Metro Park Replacement*	Construction	8	0.42
	Northwest Recreation Center Replacement	Design	7	0.25
	Tarrytown Neighborhood Park Replacement*	Design	10	0.22
	Tanglewood Neighborhood Park Replacement	Completed	6	0.21
	Silk Oak Neighborhood Park Replacement	Design	5	0.20
	Agave Neighborhood Park Improvement and Safety Surface Conversion	Completed	1	0.18
	Mary Francis Baylor Clarksville Pocket Park Replacement*	Design	10	0.18
	Reed Neighborhood Park Replacement*	Design	10	0.17
	Shipe Neighborhood Park Improvement and Safety Surface Conversion	Construction	9	0.15
	Hubert C. Schroeter Neighborhood Park Safety Surface Conversion*	Completed	6	0.09
	Wooten Neighborhood Park Replacement*	Completed	7	0.06
	Bailey Neighborhood Park Safety Surface Conversion*	Completed	10	0.03
	Hancock Recreation Center Safety Surface Conversion*	Completed	9	0.03
	Adams-Hemphill Neighborhood Park Replacement*	Completed	9	0.02
<p>Many other recently completed and active playscape projects were funded through other sources. Active projects with traditional playscape elements include Givens District Park (1), Springdale Neighborhood Park (1), Waterloo Neighborhood Park (1), Williams School Park (2), Comal Pocket Park (3), Govalle Neighborhood Park (3), Balcones District Park (7), Brentwood Neighborhood Park (7), Grackle Green/Drury Lane (9), a combined investment of approximately \$2.5 million. Recently completed projects with playscape elements include Chestnut Pocket Park (1), Colony Park District Park (1), Pan American Neighborhood Park (3), Parque Zaragoza Neighborhood Park (3), Highland Neighborhood Park (4), North Oaks Neighborhood Park (4), Quail Creek Neighborhood Park (4), St. John Pocket Park (4), Riata Neighborhood Park (6), Hartford Triangle (9), Ricky Guerrero Pocket Park (9), Little Stacy Neighborhood Park (9), and Murchison Pool (10).</p>				

Program	Project	Phase	District	2018 Allocated (millions)
<b>Golf (\$4 million)</b>	Jimmy Clay Golf Course Irrigation Installation	Bid	2	2.40
	Jimmy Clay and Roy Kizer Golf Complex Greens Improvements	Construction	2	0.60
	Morris Williams Golf Course Putting Green Renovation	Completed	1	0.25
	Grey Rock Golf Course Driving Range Tee	Active	8	0.23
	Roy Kizer Golf Course Irrigation Pump Station	Completed	2	0.16
	Other Golf Projects	Completed	2; 8	0.06
<b>Trails (\$3 million)</b>	Shoal Creek Trail 5 <sup>th</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> Street Rehabilitation*	Preliminary	9	0.90
	Northern Walnut Creek Hike and Bike Trail Phase II*	Design	7	0.50
<b>Cemeteries (\$2.5 million)</b>	Austin Memorial Park Road Rehabilitation	Bid	7	0.75
	Oakwood Annex Building Renovation	Preliminary	1	-
	Austin Memorial Park Irrigation System Expansion	Preliminary	7	-
<b>Athletics (\$2 million)</b>	Krieg Fields Multipurpose Field Artificial Turf Conversion*	On Hold	3	0.35
	Zilker Metro Park Barton Jaycee Field Lighting Replacement	Completed	5	0.28
	Downs Field Fencing Replacement	Completed	1	0.06
	Garrison District Park Yantes Field Irrigation Replacement	Completed	5	0.05
<b>Parking Lots and Roadways (\$2 million)</b>	Various locations citywide			2.00

Projects with an asterisk (\*) indicate partial funding for the project coming from the 2018 Bond

### Leveraging Partnerships

Many of PARD's active and recently completed park projects could not have happened without the support of community, non-profit, and City department partners. Highlights among completed partner projects in high need areas include:

**Table 8: Partner Projects Completed in High Need Areas since 2019**

Park	District	Project	Partner	Estimated Contribution (in millions)
Colony Park District Park	1	Park Development	Austin Parks Foundation; Dell Match Play; St. David's Foundation	1.05
Country Club Creek Greenbelt	3	Trailhead Development	Austin Parks Foundation	0.03
Dove Springs District Park	2	Mini-Pitch/Futsal Court Development	Soccer Assist; U.S. Soccer Foundation; Community Partners	0.06
Earl J. Pomerleau Pocket Park	1	Park Concept Plan	Austin Parks Foundation; Community Partners	in-kind services
Edward Rendon Sr. Park at Festival Beach	3	Festival Beach Restroom	The Trail Foundation	in-kind services
Georgian Acres Neighborhood Park	4	Park Development	Austin Parks Foundation; Dell Match Play; St. David's Foundation; Community Partners	0.38
Highland Neighborhood Park and Reznicek Fields	4	Playscape, Furnishings, and Furniture Installation	Austin Parks Foundation	0.03
Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt	1	Vision Plan	National Park Service; Community Partners	in-kind services
North Oaks Neighborhood Park	4	Playscape Replacement	Austin Parks Foundation; St. David's Foundation	0.36
Onion Creek Metro Park	2	290 acres of parkland, and development of Yarrabee Bend area	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Watershed Protection Dept.	5.00
Pan American Neighborhood Park	3	Playscape Replacement	Austin Parks Foundation	0.50
Parque Zaragoza Neighborhood Park	3	Playscape Replacement	Austin Parks Foundation	0.25
Quail Creek Neighborhood Park	4	Playscape Replacement and Fitness Equipment	Austin Parks Foundation; St. David's Foundation	0.23
St. John Pocket Park	4	Park Development	Austin Parks Foundation; St. David's Foundation	0.25
Wooldridge School Park	4	Green School Park Development	Development Services Dept.; Watershed Protection Dept.; 3M Grant; Bright Green Futures; National Wildlife Federation	0.26

Wooten Neighborhood Park	7	Playscape Replacement	KABOOM!; Michael and Susan Dell Foundation; Austin Parks Foundation	0.19
Various Sites	1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 7	Court Resurfacing Projects	St. David's Foundation	0.10

**Art and Cultural Centers**

Voters authorized \$128 million through the 2018 Bond Program’s Proposition B for Libraries, Museums, and Cultural Centers. \$66.5 million was dedicated to specific PARD-managed facilities in Council’s Contract with the Voters [Table 6].

**Table 6: PARD Facilities funded through 2018 Bond Proposition B**

Facility	2018 Allocated (millions)
Asian American Resource Center	7.0
Dougherty Arts Center	25.0
Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center	27.0
George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural, and Genealogy Center	7.5

Council adopted the **Asian American Resource Center** Facility Expansion Plan in September 2019. Since that time, PARD has collaborated with stakeholders to develop a scope of work to include a new performing arts building, PARD will proceed with solicitations for a design team and construction manager, as approved by Council, and in collaboration with other City Departments, consider partner development opportunities to advance community goals.

Since the approval of the Bond proposition, PARD has proceeded with a scope of work incorporating phase two expansion, renovation, and site elements elaborated in the **Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center** Facility Expansion Plan adopted by Council in May 2018. City Council approved the award and negotiation of a professional design services contract on July 30, 2020, and will consider an item to approve the award and negotiation with the selected Construction Manager at Risk on September 17, 2020. The design phase will begin this fall with a targeted construction start date in late 2022.

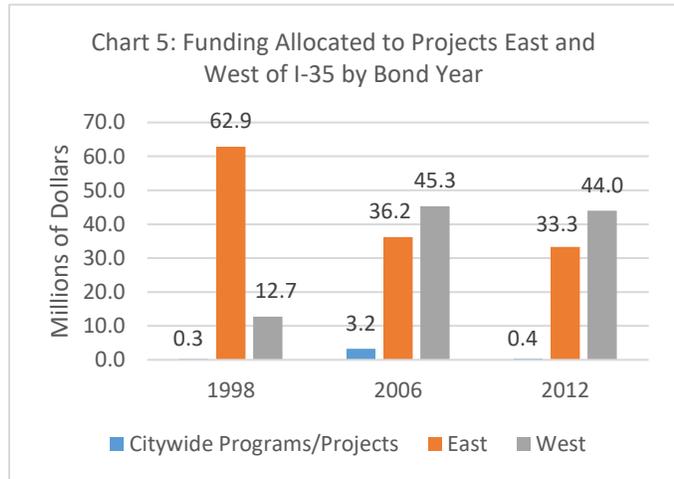
Investments from the 2018 Bond in the **George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural, and Genealogy Center** are proceeding along two tracks. In the near-term, PARD is completing a series of renovations focused on the roof and building systems to address overdue deferred maintenance needs. Simultaneously, PARD kicked off the CarverMuseumATX Facility Expansion Plan in spring 2020 with building and site assessments, small group meetings with key stakeholders, and opportunities to provide online feedback. The first community meeting occurred on August 8. Development of a draft plan will continue through the winter with Council adoption targeted in summer 2021. The Plan will include phasing to utilize remaining 2018 Bond funding for improvements and needs for the future expansion.

PARD will kick off the design phase of the **Dougherty Arts Center** Facility Replacement project this fall with a targeted construction start date in 2022. City Council approved the award and negotiation of a professional design services contract on June 11, 2020, and a contract with a third-party project manager

on March 26, 2020. PARD is currently evaluating responses to the Construction Manager at Risk Request for Qualifications and will bring an item to Council for award and negotiation this fall.

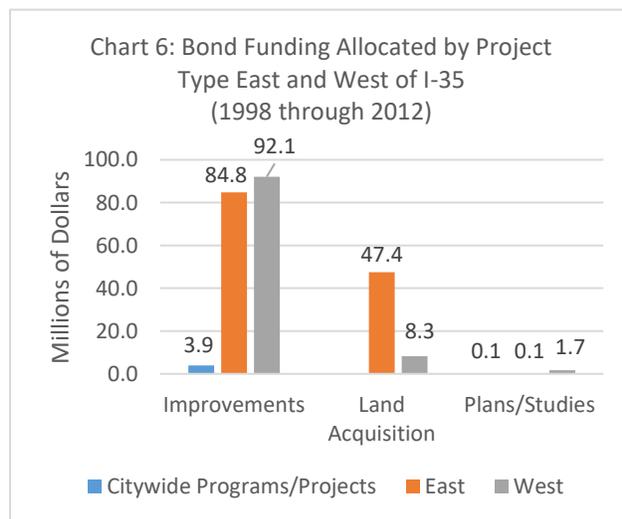
### 1998, 2006, AND 2012 PARKS AND RECREATION BOND PROPOSITIONS

PARD has allocated over 55%, \$132 of \$238 million, of its funding from the 1998, 2006, and 2012 G.O. Bond Propositions for Parks and Recreation to projects east of I-35 (Chart 5). Among these Bond propositions, 1998's was most heavily weighted toward investments in east Austin, while 2006 and 2012's saw more investment in projects west of I-35.



PARD's Bond Programs from 1998 to 2012 have primarily funded improvement projects and parkland acquisitions, with a small percentage supporting studies and master planning efforts. During this period, PARD

invested \$47.4 million in Bond funding toward parkland acquisitions east of I-35, more than five times as much as west of I-35 (Chart 6). The bulk of these investments occurred in the 1998 Bond's Greenbelt and Destination Park acquisition programs, which added John Treviño Jr. Metro Park at Morrison Ranch, the Walnut Creek Sports Complex, and greenbelts and parks along Little Walnut Creek, Onion Creek, and Southern Walnut Creek to the PARD system. All PARD acquisitions from 1998 to present are shown on the attached *Completed Parkland Acquisitions Heatmap: Parkland Purchased from 1998 to Present*.



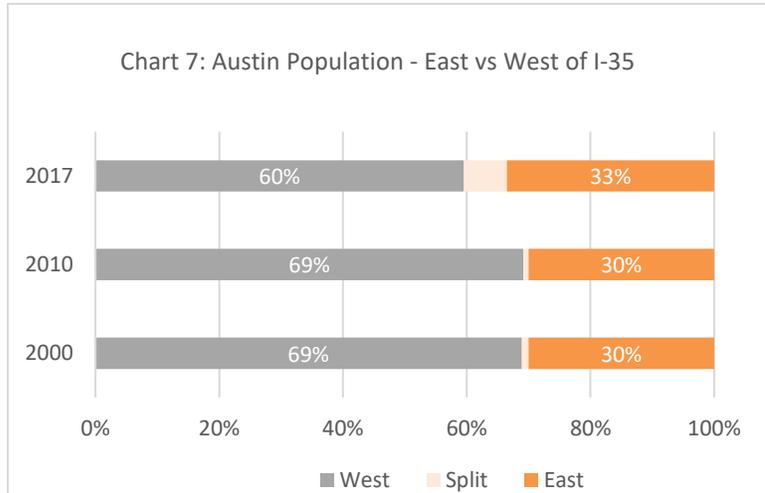
Significant PARD development projects have occurred throughout the City during this period. Highlights east of I-35 have included the Montopolis Recreation and Community Center, Roy G. Guerrero Colorado River Metro Park, Bartholomew Pool, Gus Garcia District Park and Recreation Center, the St. John Community Center, and Colony Park District Park and Turner-Roberts Recreation Center. Major development projects west of I-35 include Waterloo Park, the North Austin Recreation Center/YMCA, the Northern Walnut Creek Hike and Bike Trail, Northwest Recreation Center, the Shoal Creek Greenbelt, and Westenfield Pool.

The Bond allocations are not inflation adjusted. Using the Consumer Price Index, the \$75.9 million approved for the 1998 Bond Program would equal approximately \$116 million in current dollars.

**BENCHMARK INDICATORS**

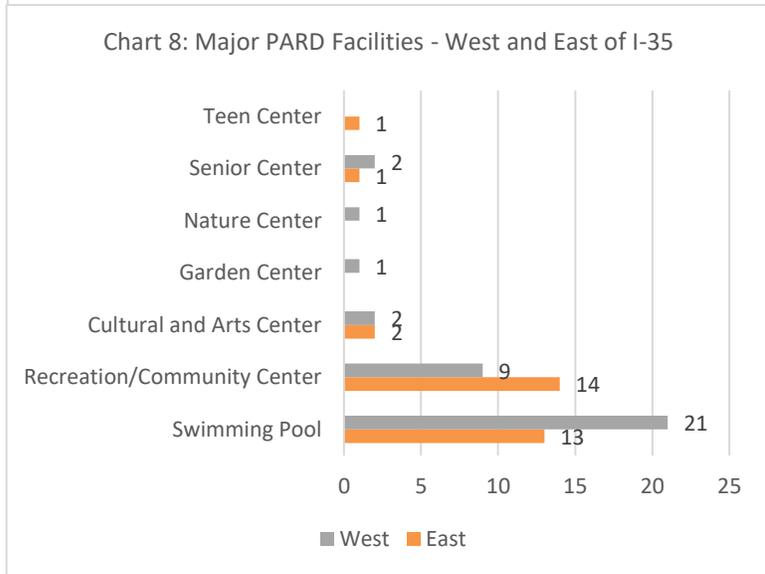
**Population**

According to US Census Data published since the 2000 Census, roughly 2/3 of Austin’s population lives west of I-35 and roughly 1/3 of the population lives east of I-35. The 2017 American Community Survey data published by the US Census Bureau shows that relative growth in east Austin has accelerated compared to relative growth in west Austin



**Major PARD Facility Distribution**

Major PARD facilities include cultural and art centers such as the Dougherty Arts Center, recreation centers, and swimming pools. Recreation centers are more prevalent east of I-35, while a larger number of swimming pools exist west of I-35. (Chart 8).



**OTHER HIGHLIGHTED INITIATIVES**

**RECOGNITION, DESIGNATION, AND INVESTMENT IN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT PARKS**

Rosewood Neighborhood Park (2020) and Parque Zaragoza Neighborhood Park (2017) were recently honored by the Texas Recreation and Parks Society (TRAPS) as Lone Star Legacy Parks for their historic significance in the local community and the State of Texas. In addition, both sites were designated with State Historical Markers from the Texas Historical Commission. PARD investments in these parks rehabilitate historic facilities, promote cultural and historic interpretation, and ensure they continue to create community.

**Rosewood Neighborhood Park**

Following the adoption of the 1928 City of Austin Plan that enforced and codified racial segregation by only providing services and utilities in the eastern section of the city for communities of color, Rosewood Park was opened in 1929 as the first public park for Austin’s African American community. The site became a cultural and recreational center for the Rosewood neighborhood and African American community. The

park has hosted an annual Juneteenth celebration since the 1930s, drawing thousands in recent years. The park is home to the Doris Miller Auditorium (constructed during World War II to host events for servicemen), the Henry Green Madison, Austin's first African-American councilmember's, log cabin (relocated to the park in the 1970s), and the Delores Duffie Recreation Center.

PARD recently completed construction of a new bathhouse which includes restrooms, showers, and family facilities to serve the park's patrons. PARD is also in the design phase to complete the replacement of the park's failing hard surface tennis and multipurpose courts. Deferred maintenance funding approved in the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget will support investments at Delores Duffie Recreation Center, Doris Miller Auditorium, and a new lighting system for the pair of softball fields.

### **Parque Zaragoza Neighborhood Park**

Barred from the Austin parks segregated facilities, Mexican-American community leaders formed an organization to advocate for a recreational space for their growing community. In 1931, the City purchased 9.27 acres in East Austin that would become Parque Zaragoza. The community established the Zaragoza Park Board to organize activities, celebrations, and maintenance and, through ongoing organization and commitment, made the park into a vital cultural and recreational center. Over the years, the park continued to hold cultural significance in the Latinx community while adding acreage and new facilities, culminating in the opening of a 17.5 thousand square foot recreation center in 1996.

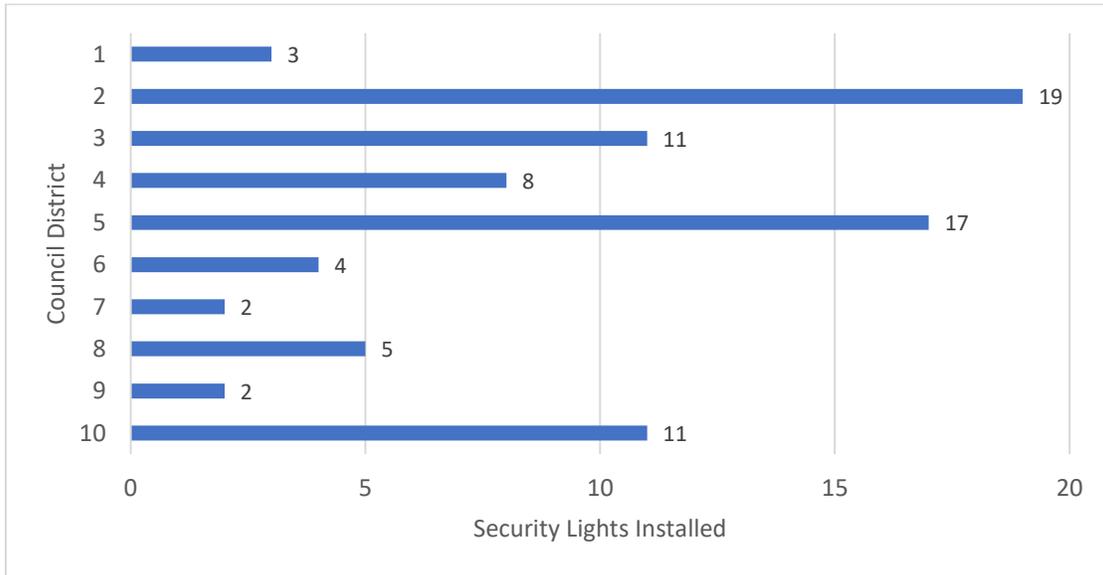
Recently completed projects at Parque Zaragoza include the replacement of the playscape and installation of a pool shade in partnership with the Austin Parks Foundation and deferred maintenance projects to replace ballfield fencing and HVAC systems. PARD is in the process of securing architectural design services to kick off the rehabilitation of the Parque Zaragoza Bathhouse, which is currently out of service. The building was originally constructed in 1941 by the National Youth Administration to serve as a bathhouse and recreation center. Deferred maintenance funding approved in the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget will also support the installation of a replacement ballfield lighting system.

### **PARK SECURITY LIGHTING**

PARD's security lighting program addresses safety priorities at park locations throughout the City. The program also promotes recreational use of parks later in the evening up until the park curfews of 10 pm. Council first appropriated \$115 thousand in PARD's Fiscal Year 2017 operating budget and has continued to fund the program at that level. In the program's first three years, 82 lights have been installed in 19 zip codes across all 10 Council Districts. The program has had an early focus on Go Austin/Vamos Austin's (GAVA) initial service area in the 78744 and 78745 zip codes in south and southeast Austin, which have received almost half of the installations to date.

Another 25 installations are scheduled with Fiscal Year 2020's funding. Supplemental funding has been provided by the Austin Parks Foundation and CIP projects in locations with demonstrated lighting needs. Going forward, PARD will prioritize locations suggested by the community and other stakeholders based on service area demographics, safety concerns, the potential for lighting to mitigate those concerns, and the potential for lighting to improve access to and the use of recreational amenities.

Chart 9: Security Lights Installed with PARD Operating Budget (Fiscal Years 2017-19)



**NEXT STEPS**

**Reporting:** Going forward, PARD will provide semi-annual updates to City Council on capital improvement program and land acquisition spending. Reporting will include project initiations and milestones, as well as progress toward closing gaps in the park system through land acquisition.

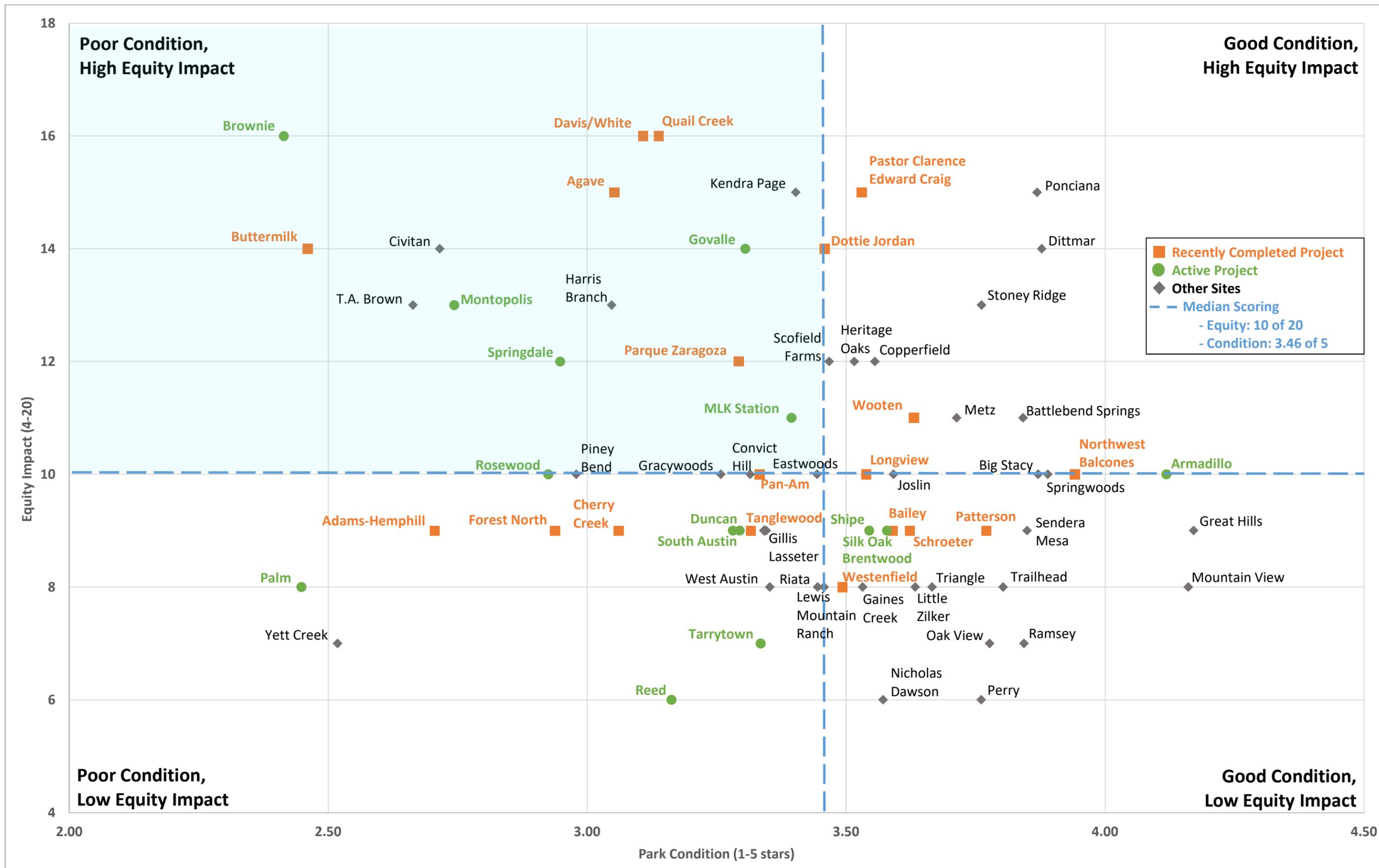
**Consideration of Adopted Council Policies:** [Council Resolution 20091119-068](#) set the parkland level of service goal of providing parkland within ¼ mile of Urban Core residents and ½ mile for the rest of the City. The adopted Urban Core boundary came from the recommendations of the City of Austin Families and Children Task Force (2008). The intent of this distinction was to improve quality of life for families in the city’s Urban Core, where “children face unique and growing challenges”, according to the Task Force’s Recommendations Report. Austin continues to densify with infill development citywide; as such, PARD continues to evaluate the city’s park system based on acres of parkland per population, as well as providing parkland within ¼ mile of Urban Core residents and ½ mile outside the Urban Core. PARD is currently coordinating with several departments on identifying needed resources for the development of a parcel based land use demographic database. Should Council wish to reconsider the Urban Core boundary as defined in 2009, PARD would complete an analysis of the parkland level of service goals utilizing the parcel based land use demographic database.

Should you have any questions, please contact my office at (512) 974-6722.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager  
 Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde, Deputy City Manager

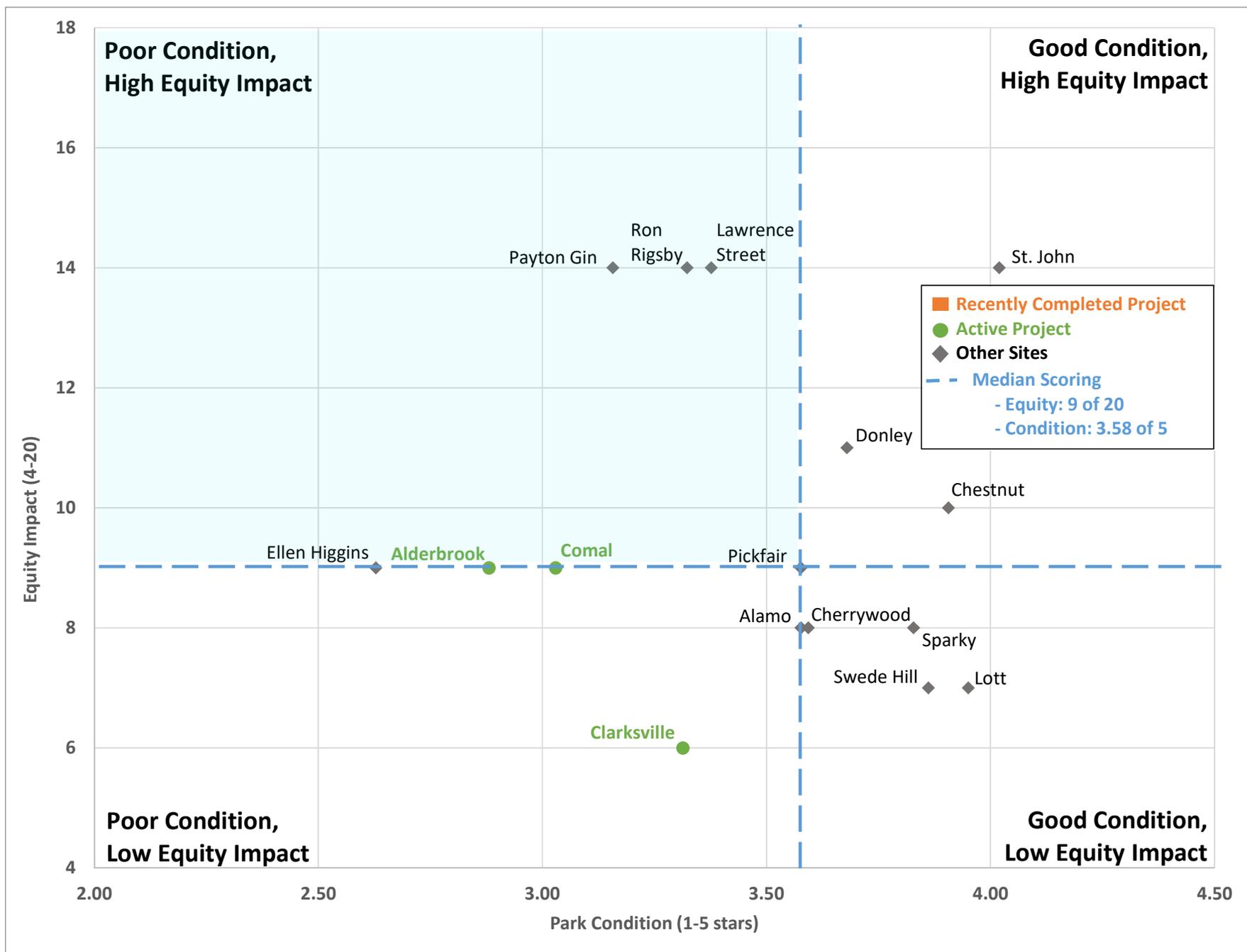
- Attachments:
- Charts 1 through 4 – Prioritization Matrices
  - 2018 Bond Park Investments Heatmaps 1 through 3
  - Completed Parkland Acquisitions Heatmap

Chart 1: Developed Neighborhood Parks and Projects by Existing Condition and Service Area Demographics



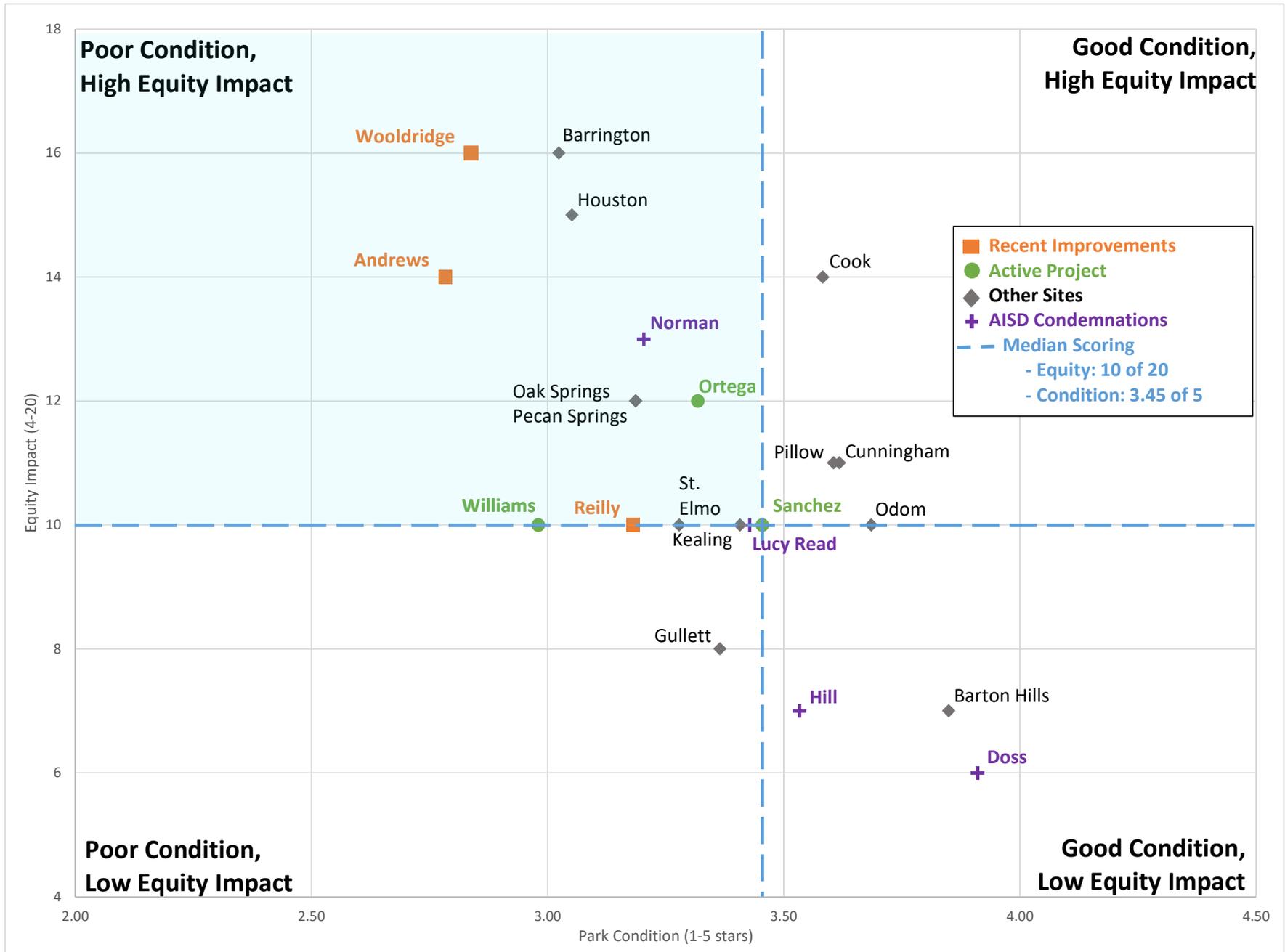
Park condition is based on assessments completed from fall 2018 to summer 2019. Equity impact reflects population density, proportion of people of color, household median income, and proportion of children within the park service area relative to Austin medians. Projects are active as of August 2020. Recently completed projects finished in summer 2019 or later. Condition scores have not been updated for these improvements.

# Chart 2: Developed Pocket Parks and Projects by Existing Condition and Service Area Demographics



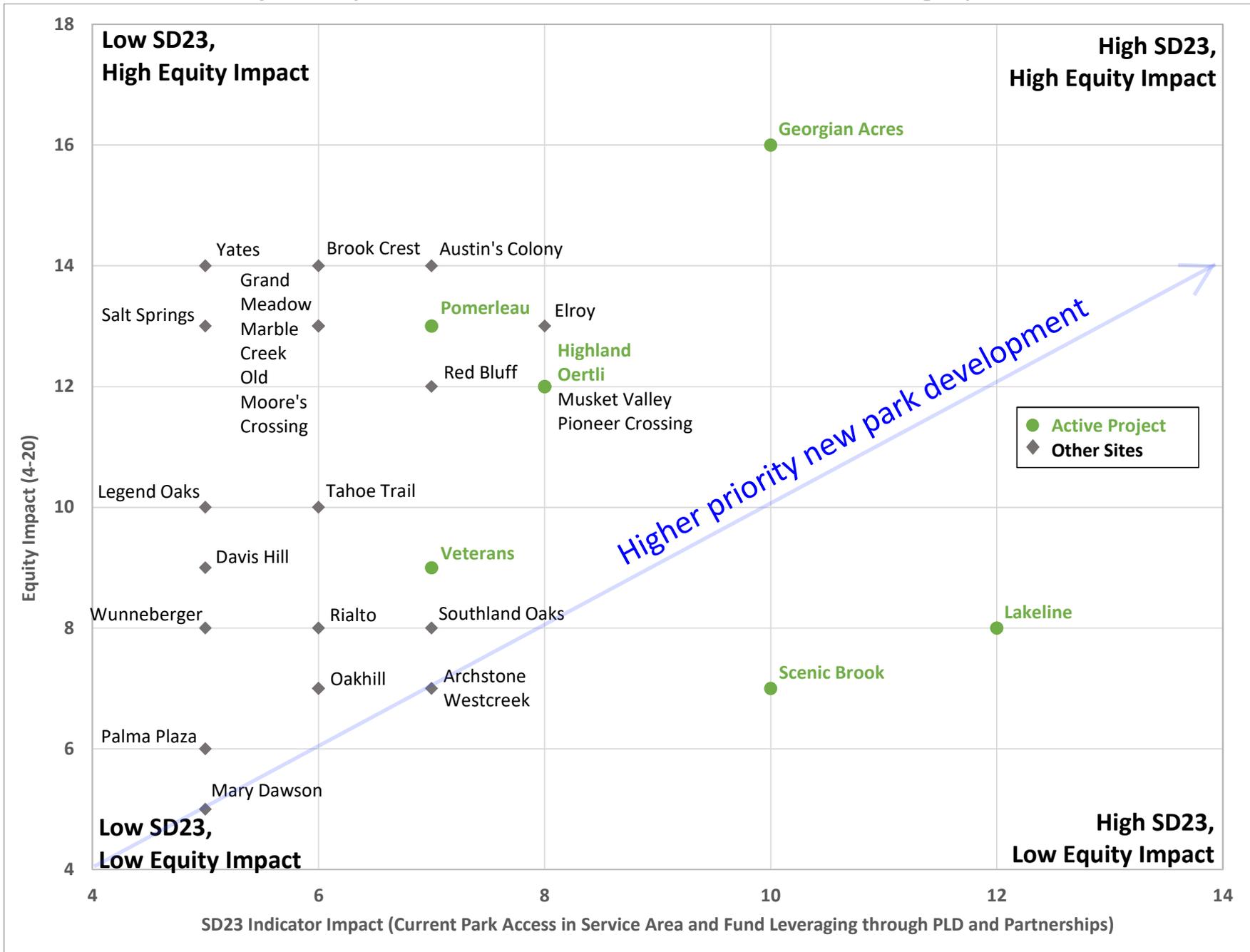
Park condition is based on assessments completed from fall 2018 to summer 2019. Equity impact reflects population density, proportion of people of color, household median income, and proportion of children within the park service area relative to Austin medians. Projects are active as of August 2020. Recently completed projects finished in summer 2019 or later. Condition scores have not been updated for these improvements.

# Chart 3: Developed School Parks and Projects by Existing Condition and Service Area Demographics

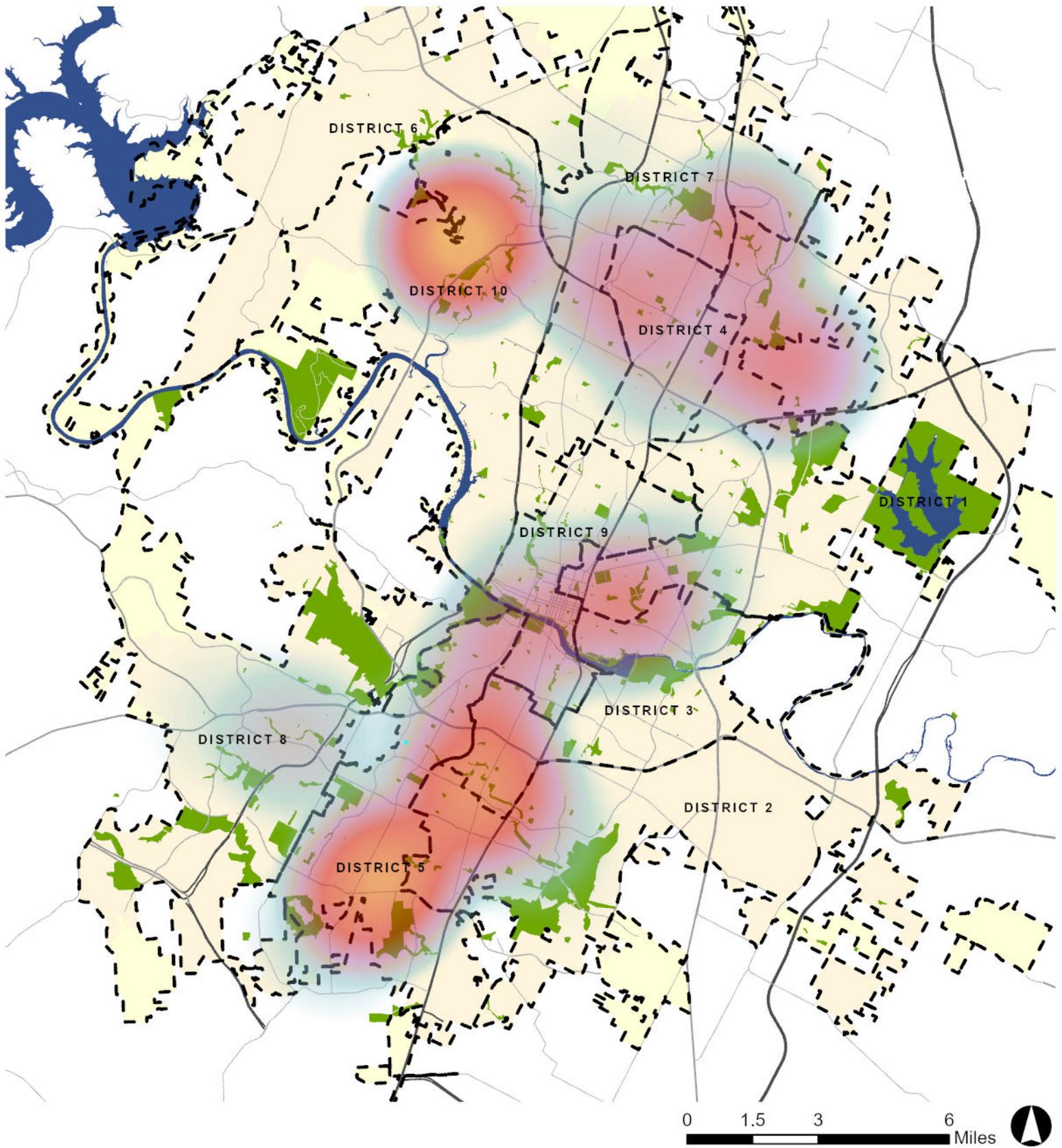


Park condition is based on assessments completed from fall 2018 to summer 2019. Equity impact reflects population density, proportion of people of color, household median income, and proportion of children within the park service area relative to Austin medians. Projects are active as of August 2020. Recently completed projects finished in summer 2019 or later. Condition scores have not been updated for these improvements. AISD condemnations have impacted parkland and amenities at Doss, Hill, Lucy Read, and Norman School Parks.

### Chart 4: Undeveloped Neighborhood and Pocket Parks and Projects by SD23 Indicators and Service Area Demographics



Equity impact reflects population density, proportion of people of color, household median income, and proportion of children within the park service area relative to Austin medians. Projects are active as of August 2020. SD23 indicators are based on current park service in area and current availability of partner or other non-2018 Bond funding sources to leverage for development.



## 2018 BOND PARK INVESTMENTS HEATMAP

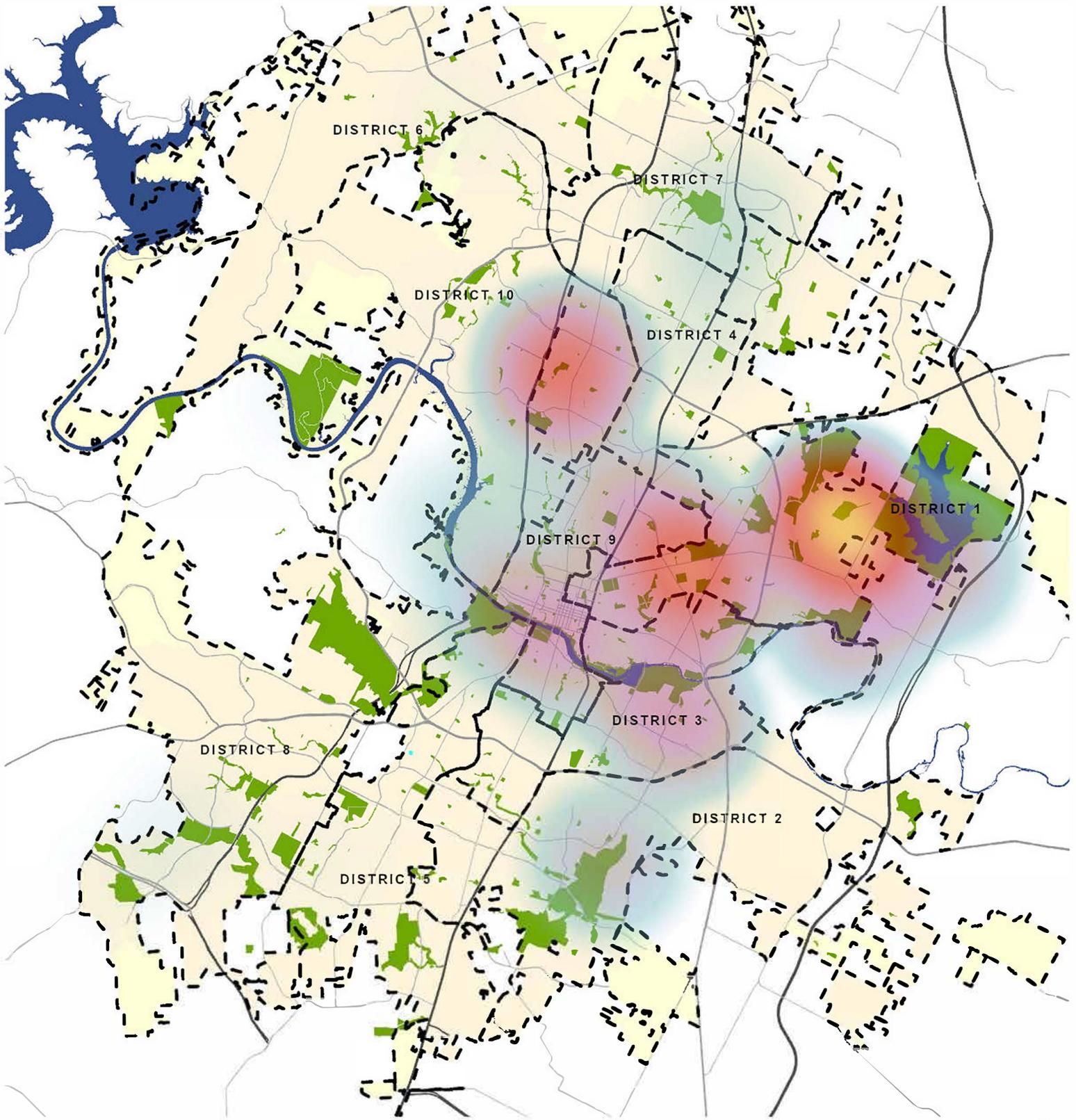
### Active Parkland Acquisitions



Concentration of investment across projects from low to high



This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries. This product has been produced by the Parks and Recreation Department for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.



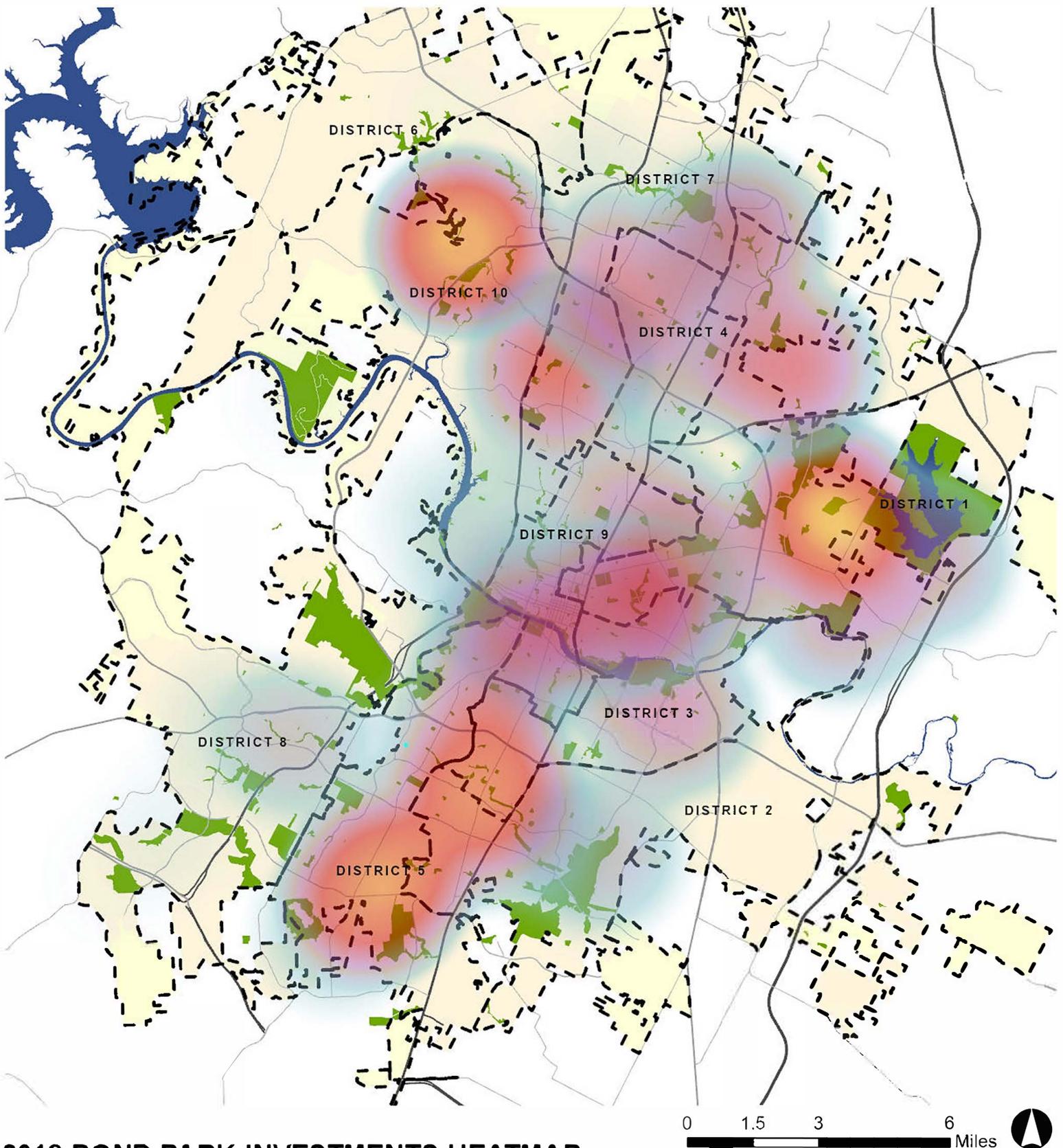
**2018 BOND PARK INVESTMENTS HEATMAP**  
**Planned Capital Improvement Projects**



 Concentration of investment across  
 projects from low to high



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# 2018 BOND PARK INVESTMENTS HEATMAP

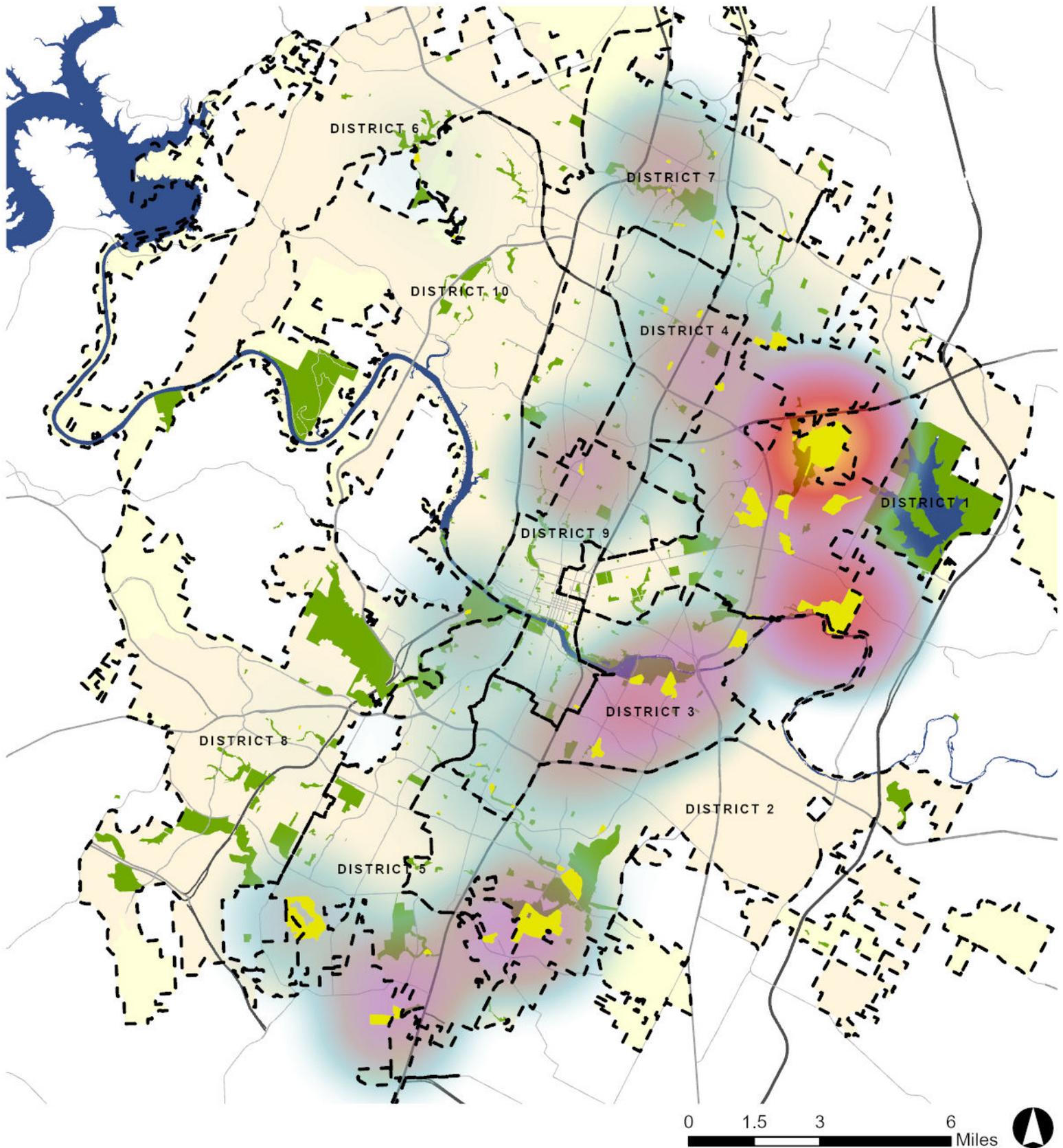
## Active Parkland Acquisitions and Capital Improvement Projects



Concentration of investment across projects from low to high



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## COMPLETED PARKLAND ACQUISITIONS HEATMAP Parkland Purchased from 1998 to Present



Concentration of investment in parkland purchases dating back to 1998, from low to high.



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