



Austin Parks and Recreation Department

Barton Creek Greenbelt Reservation Pilot

PARB Presentation

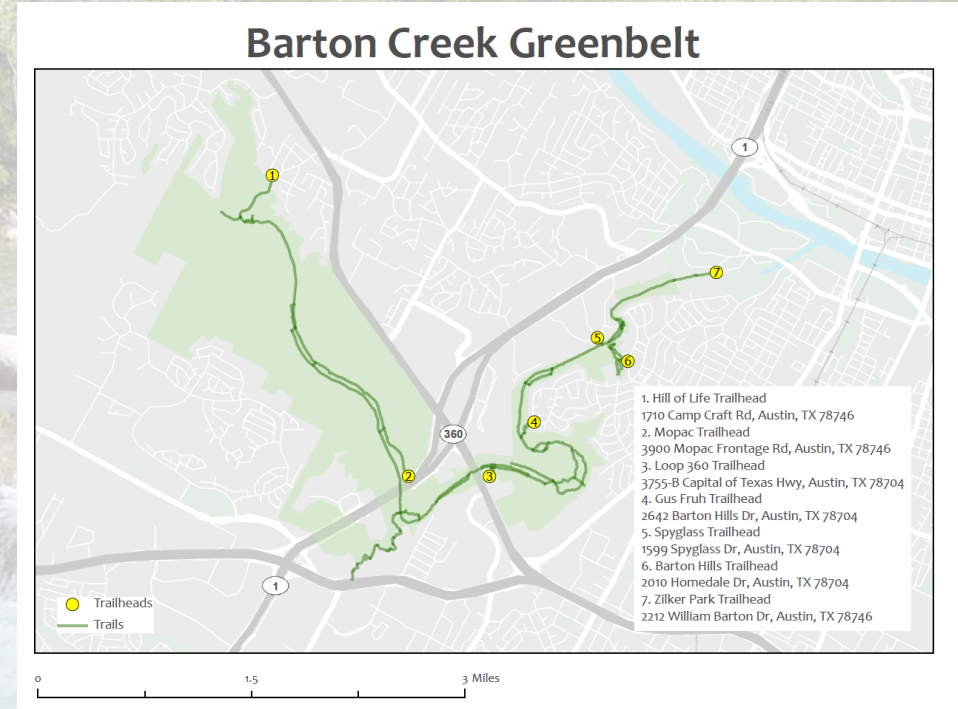
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February 2020



PILOT PROJECT

- Free Reservations Available Online
- Park Monitors In Place At 7 Entrances
- Reservations Implemented Friday-Sunday
 - 10:30am-7:30pm



GUIDING QUESTIONS

- Can managing access provide enjoyable access/nature appreciation for park users?
- Can a reservation system be implemented equitably?
- Is this a model that could work in this park or other parks?
- What are potential benefits and challenges of increasing staffing levels at the Barton Creek Greenbelt?
- Are there changes to environmental impacts?

DATA REVIEW

- All reservation slots FULL at all 8 entrances in August
- Reservations available every weekend September and October
- 34% of reservations were claimed

DATA REVIEW

- 4,675 visitors were allowed to enter without a reservation
- 1,642 visitors were turned away
- 828 dogs were counted
- Park Ranger contacts for dogs off-leash were down 35% from the previous year timeframe

PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

| In Person Survey (569) | Online Survey (376) |
|---|--|
| 54% were visiting for the first time or only visited annually | Over 60% visited the site monthly or weekly |
| Hiking, nature and swimming reasons for visiting | Hiking, nature and swimming reasons for visiting |
| 78745 most frequent zip code | South/south east of Austin |
| Online Reservation System 73% Positive | Online Reservation System 21% Positive |
| Ability to Get A Reservation 76% Positive | Ability to Get A Reservation 17% Positive |
| More than 50% said a positive was that the system: creates a less crowded space for enjoyment during pandemic | 57% Had Difficulty Getting a Reservation |
| Largest Negative of Reservation System Was Advanced Planning | Largest Negative of Reservation System Was Advanced Planning |

TRASH SURVEY

| | FY18 | FY19 | FY20 | FY21* |
|---------------------|------|------|------|-------|
| Poop Bags | 45 | 20 | 60 | 17 |
| Alcohol Containers | 16 | 5 | 18 | 10 |
| Plastic Bags | 29 | 7 | 28 | 13 |
| Beverage Containers | 21 | 6 | 29 | 16 |
| Tobacco Products | 16 | 8 | 17 | 7 |
| Small Misc. | 54 | 12 | 62 | 47 |

CONCLUSIONS

- Opportunity exists for more visitor interactions within this large urban preserve.
- Given the high percentage of individuals visiting for the first time or annually, there is an opportunity to improve visitor services with more programming.
- Many visitors found the online reservation system a burden.

RECOMENDATIONS

Discontinue Reservation System

Park Ambassadors Program for the Barton Creek Greenbelt

- Lead volunteer activities

- Tour Guides

- Encourage Responsible Recreation

- Entry Career Ladder Positions

Questions

