

Austin Parks and Recreation Department

# Barton Creek Greenbelt Reservation Pilot

PARB Presentation

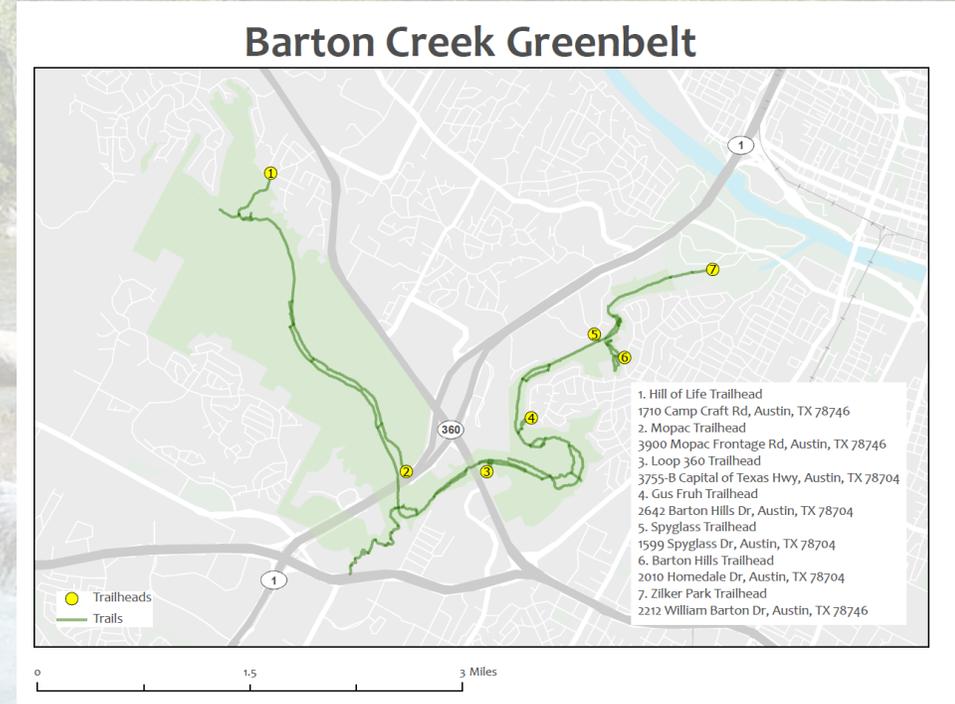
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# PILOT PROJECT

- 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

