

Austin Parks and Recreation Department
Financial Services Division
June 17, 2021



PARB FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

EXPLORATION OF PARK MAINTENANCE FEES & PARKS DISTRICT

PARK MAINTENANCE FEE

- ▶ The purpose of a park maintenance fee would be to provide for the operation and maintenance of the parks and facilities within the City of Austin Parks & Recreation Department.
- ▶ A parks maintenance fee would be paid by the responsible part for each developed property within the corporate limits of the city.
- ▶ Collection of the fee would be made by a monthly charge included on the City Utility Bill.
- ▶ Fees collected would be deposited into a City special revenue park fee account.



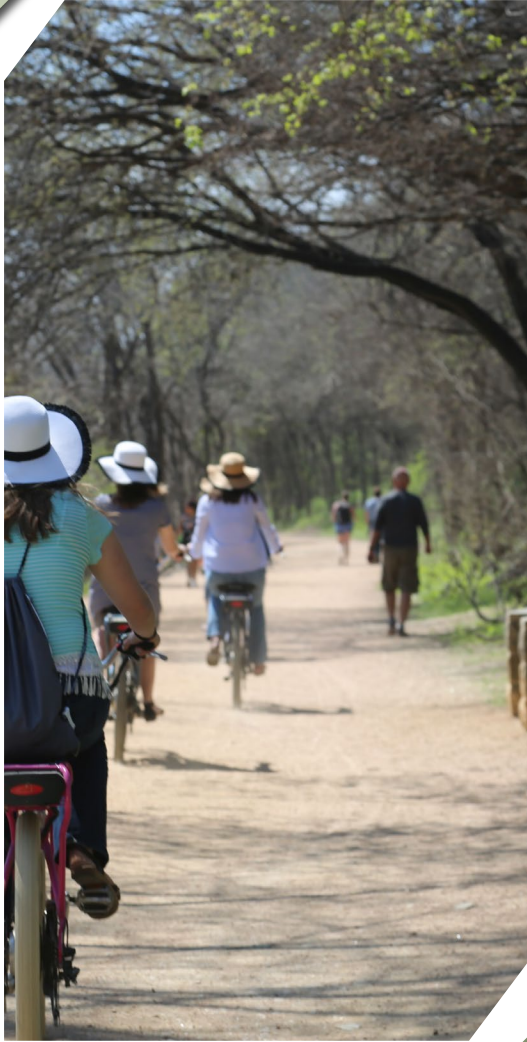
PARK MAINTENANCE FEE OPTIONS MODELS

- ▶ **Option One – Fixed Monthly Fee**, similar to the Clean Community Fee
 - ▶ Possible charge of \$8.95/residents and \$20.75/commercial per month
- ▶ **Option Two – Dwelling Type Allocation**, similar to the Transportation User Fee
 - ▶ Possible charge of about \$12.79/residents and \$63.99/commercial per acre per month

CITIES WITH PARK MAINTENANCE FEES

	Population Served*	Number of Homes	Monthly Fee	Estimated Annual Collection	Type
Canby, Oregon	18,000	6,600	\$5 per dwelling	\$396,000	Monthly Fixed Fee
Central Point, Oregon	18,000	7,000	\$3 per dwelling	\$252,000	Monthly Fixed Fee
Longmont, Colorado	95,000	36,800	\$2 per dwelling	\$883,200	Monthly Fixed Fee
Rocklin, California	65,000	23,146	\$10-30 per dwelling	\$8,332,560	Based on Dwelling type
San Antonio, Texas	1,530,000	550,000	\$1.50 per dwelling	\$9,900,000	Monthly Fixed Fee
Austin, Texas	950,807	415,000	\$8.95 per dwelling	\$44,820,000	Monthly Fixed Fee
Austin, Texas	950,807	415,000	\$11-13 per dwelling	\$63,700,000	Based on Dwelling type

PARK DISTRICT



A Park District is a form of local special-purpose district for providing public parks and recreation in or near its geographic boundaries. Some park districts also own or maintain related cultural facilities such as monuments, zoos, sports venues, music venues, or museums.

- ▶ The Park District would be separate from the General Fund
- ▶ Park Districts allow taxes to be levied separate from the traditional city property taxes
- ▶ Admission and registration fees would supplement the Park District

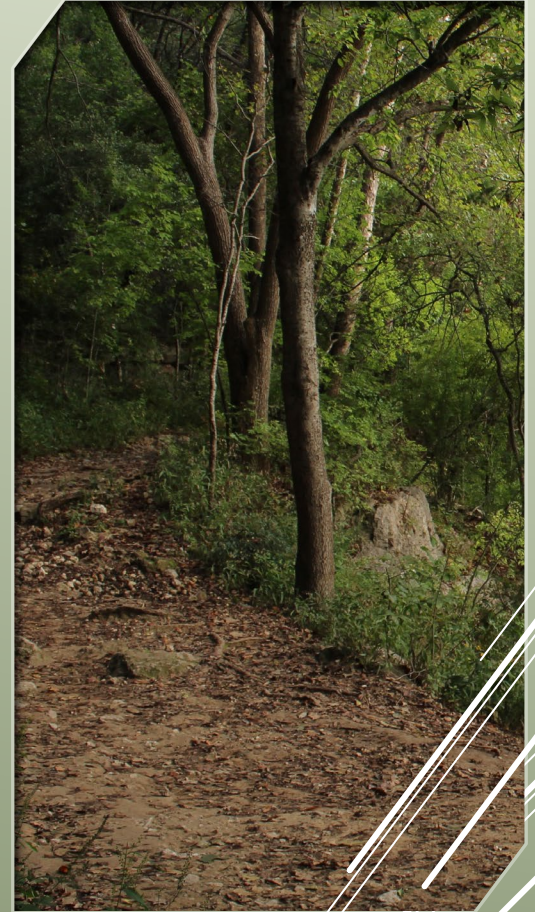
PARK DISTRICT MODELS

▶ **Model #1: Independent governance**

- ▶ Stand-alone government entity separate from COA
- ▶ Dissolve current structure of board and PARD leadership structure
- ▶ Board of Commissions/Chief Operating Officer/Personnel Board
- ▶ Workforce: District hired vs. COA
- ▶ Park District fee could be used to create expanded programming including concession programming, sponsorship, advertising & promotion programming

▶ **Model #2: Under City umbrella**

- ▶ Revenue collected in Special Revenue Fund to help address deferred capital projects
- ▶ Under the responsibility and care of the City of Austin's Park and Recreation Department



CITIES WITH PARK DISTRICTS

Park District	Population Served	Year Chartered	Parks and Facilities	Model Type	Budget Highlights
Chicago, IL	2,700,000	1934	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8,800 acres of green space 28 indoor pools, 50 outdoor pools 28 miles of lakefront 	Independent Governance	FY2021 Operating Budget: \$476.9M Property Tax: \$287.4M (4.73% Property Tax assessed or \$215.22 per year for property valued at \$265,000) Corporate Tax: \$42M Other Sources: \$147.5M
Homewood-Flossmoor, IL	30,000	1969	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 365 acres of land 31 park sites 	Independent Governance	FY2021 Operating Budget: \$12.8M Property Tax: \$5.4M Other Sources: \$7.4M
Naperville, IL	148,000	1966	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,400 acres 136 parks 	Independent Governance	FY2021 Operating Budget: \$39.4M Property Tax: \$23.5M Other Sources: \$15.9M
Great Falls, MT	57,800	2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,200 acres 66 parks 2 golf courses 	Under City Umbrella	FY2020 City Operating Budget: \$128.9M Parks & Rec General Fund: \$2.9M Park District: \$1.9M

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

EXAMPLE:

Revenues	2020 Budget	2021 Budget	% Change
Property Tax	\$283,468,798	\$287,444,337	1.4%
Managed Assets	\$92,743,625	\$91,130,606	-1.7%
Personal Property Replacement Tax (PPRT)	\$41,000,000	\$42,000,000	2.4%
Park Fees	\$34,743,050	\$25,908,812	-25.4%
Other Resources	\$16,601,438	\$16,282,110	-1.9%
TIF Distribution	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000	0.0%
Grants	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	0.0%
Total Resources	\$487,556,910	\$481,765,864	-1.2%
<i>Less Internal Service Earnings</i>	<i>\$4,900,000</i>	<i>\$4,900,000</i>	
Net Appropriation	\$482,656,910	\$476,865,864	-1.2%

		Property valued at \$265,000
Taxing Agency	2019 Distribution	Allocation of Tax Bill
Board of Education	52.54%	\$2,389.84
City of Chicago School Bldg & Improv Fund	2.45%	\$111.57
City of Chicago	23.27%	\$1,058.26
Chicago Library Fund	1.76%	\$79.88
Chicago Park District	4.73%	\$215.22
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District	5.65%	\$256.81
City Colleges	2.16%	\$98.31
Cook County	6.59%	\$299.72
Forest Preserve District	0.86%	\$38.95
		\$4,548.56

ESTIMATED TIMELINE TO ESTABLISH PARKS MAINTENANCE FEE OR PARK DISTRICT

Year 1

- Propose to City Management

Year 1

- Hiring of Consultant(s)

Year 2

- Drafting of Ordinance

Year 3-4

- Outreach – City Council, State Government, Austin Community

Year 3-4

- Present to City Council for Adoption

CONSIDERATIONS

- ▶ Community acceptance
- ▶ Likelihood of city management approval
- ▶ Legal hurdles
- ▶ State legislature approval
- ▶ Length of time
- ▶ Cost benefit analysis