

## PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**DATE:** February 2023

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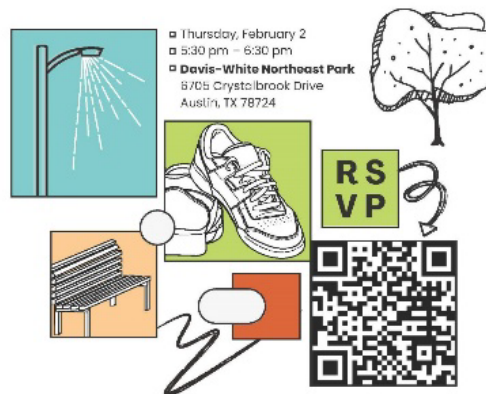
### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS:

**Parkland Dedication Conversations:** The Department's Parkland Dedication team hosted conversations with community stakeholders to gather input and explore opportunities for fine-tuning and improving the commercial and residential parkland dedication ordinances. The process includes conversations with different stakeholder groups that started in January and are expected to continue until March. The results are anticipated to be reported to City Council in the spring. This process is in response to [City Council Resolution 20220915-053](#). **Multiple Districts**

**Davis/White Northeast Neighborhood Park:** The Department, The Public Works Neighborhood Partnering Program (NPP), The LBJ Neighborhood Association, Alliance for African American Health in Central Texas, and community partners will celebrate the completion of the Davis/White Lighting project with an evening walk on Thursday, March 2nd. The event will highlight the accomplishment of the Department and NPP community partners on this project, which expands the use of park space and makes the trail more accessible and welcoming with solar lighting. Council Member participation is anticipated. **District 1**

Join the LBJ Neighborhood Association and Alliance for African American Health in Central Texas for a...

## COMMUNITY FUN WALK!



Meet your City Council  
member & local park  
adopters group +  
celebrate the new  
lighting in the park!

*Flyer for the Davis/White Northeast Neighborhood Park community walk*

**Grand Meadow Neighborhood Park Concept Plan:** The first community meeting for the Grand Meadow Neighborhood Park Concept Plan will take place virtually on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Surrounded by single-family homes, the nearly ten-acre property is currently designated as a wildflower meadow. Austin Parks Foundation, in coordination with the Department, will conduct community engagement and develop a concept plan to guide the future development of Grand Meadow Neighborhood Park through the spring, with a draft concept plan expected to be complete by the end of the summer. A registration link for the meeting can be found on the project webpage. **District 2**  
<https://www.austintexas.gov/GrandMeadowPark>

**Emma Long Metropolitan Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony:** A ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate improvements made to Emma Long Metropolitan Park will be held on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:00 p.m. Construction was completed on the improvements over the summer and included a renovated central bathhouse and plaza area, an extension of walking trails through the central lawn, provisions for landscaping, new volleyball courts, group camping areas, an additional reservable picnic area, a nature-based discovery area, infrastructure for mobile food trucks, and associated code and accessibility improvements. **District 10**



*Picnic area at Emma Long Metropolitan Park*

## PLANNING UPDATES:

**Landscape Architect Restoration:** In the month of February, the Museum staff met with Friends of the Ney to plan for the onboarding of a landscape architect to work on a restoration project on the Museum's landscape. The Friends Group and Museum staff met with various landscape architecture teams and then connected with other Department Divisions to discuss the project. The final selection is under way and the goal is to onboard before February 28, 2023. The project will be paid for by donations made to Friends of the Ney. In addition, staff has been working intensely with the contracted team from Museworks to create an engagement plan as well as conduct research for the Ney's Interpretive plan. This included meeting with Creative Policy, a subcontractor for the team that will work on the engagement plan with the community. The Ney's first interpretive plan, which will guide the development of new exhibits for the restored Elisabet Ney Museum, will be completed in the fall of 2023. Ney Museum staff has worked with local neighborhood associations to collaborate on a large *It's My Park Day* to take place between Shipe Park and the Museum. These large meetings have helped

shape relationships with the neighborhood and strengthen communications regarding upcoming Museum projects. **District 9**

**East Braker Lane Extension / Pioneer Crossing Neighborhood Park – Chapter 26:** A public hearing will be conducted at City Council on March 9<sup>th</sup> in accordance with Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, to consider a resolution authorizing a change in use of dedicated parkland, known as Pioneer Crossing Neighborhood Park, located at 11544 Samsung Blvd, in order for the Austin Transportation Department to construct, use and maintain approximately 9,574 sq. ft. of permanent drainage easements that are necessary for the construction of the East Braker Lane Extension project. The Parks and Recreation Board voted unanimously to recommend the change in use at the November 28, 2022 meeting. **District 1**

**Brodie Oaks PUD:** The Brodie Oaks shopping center redevelopment is a proposed Planned Unit Development (PUD) located at Loop 360 and South Lamar, at the site of the former Brodie Oaks shopping center. Council approved the zoning on first reading on December 8, 2022 ([Item 96](#)). A hearing has been set for the second and possibly third reading at the regular Council Meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Parks and Recreation Board voted unanimously to recommend the PUD as superior at the September 26, 2022 meeting. **District 5**

**Project Connect:** Project Connect staff asked the Department to evaluate alternatives and options related to the 6F transfer of land. It is unknown whether the Blue Line will cross Lady Bird Lake and take land at the Waller Creek Boathouse, or whether the Orange Line crossing would be above ground, thus impacting Auditorium Shores. Questions remain about whether the condemnation process would be used, whether the Department will be guaranteed receiving the mitigation funds, and whether the Department will request a 1:1 transfer of land as part of this 6F process. The Department is in the hiring process for a full-time employee dedicated 100% to Project Connect. **Multiple Districts**  
<https://projectconnect.com/>

**305 S. Congress Parkland Amenities Prioritization:** The former home of *The Austin American-Statesman*, 305 S. Congress is a central piece of the [South Central Waterfront Plan](#). On December 1, 2022, Austin City Council passed [Ordinance No. 20221201-084](#), guiding the process for "public park amenities prioritization process" (section 10(G)). Ordinance No. 20221201-084 requires that the Park Prioritization Process be completed within 90 days of approval (March 1, 2023), plus PARD Director can extend one additional 90-day period (May 30, 2023). Additional 90-day periods can be approved by agreement between the Department and Endeavor. A community engagement process for amenity prioritization will take place on Thursday, March 2, 2023, registration for the meeting is below. **Multiple Districts**

**305 S. Congress Parkland Amenities Prioritization  
Stakeholder Meeting**  
Thursday, March 2, 2023  
[Zoom Registration](#)



## DEVELOPMENT UPDATES:

**Dougherty Arts Center (DAC):** The DAC Redevelopment Project will replace the existing DAC facility with a new arts center on Butler Shores Park, building on the existing core arts programs in an improved environment that can better accommodate Austin’s significant demand for affordable arts programming. City Council approved the DAC project to proceed with design and construction in the spring of 2021, following a multi-year community engagement and Council-approved planning process. The project is nearing completion of the construction documents; however, the construction timeline is pending additional funding from a future bond. The DAC project team presented an overview of the design scope to The Trail Conservancy Board on February 21<sup>st</sup>, specifically focusing on how the building will interface with the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail. **Districts 5 and 9**

<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/dougherty-arts-center-redevelopment-project>



*Concept rendering of the new Dougherty Arts Center*

**Barton Springs Bathhouse Rehabilitation:** On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Council approved a resolution finding the use of the Competitive Sealed Proposal method of contracting, as authorized by Subchapter D, Chapter 2269 of the Texas Government Code, is the project delivery method that provides the best value to the City for the Zilker Metropolitan Park Barton Springs Bathhouse Rehabilitation. The scope of this project includes structural, accessibility, and utility infrastructure improvements and updates to the Splash! exhibit within the historical bathhouse at Barton Springs Pool, as called for in the 2008 Barton Springs Pool Vision Plan and the 2016 Zilker Bathhouse Zone Feasibility Study. The building is protected by Federal, State, and Local historic designations. This project requires a contractor with the experience and ability to work on a historic site in an environmentally sensitive area with specialized preservation techniques required for facility repairs, renovation, and rehabilitation. The estimated construction budget for this work is \$10.5M and it is anticipated that construction will begin in September 2023. **District 8**

<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/barton-springs-bathhouse-rehabilitation>

**Oertli Neighborhood Park:** Oertli Neighborhood Park is 6-acres of undeveloped parkland located near Dessau Road and East Parmer Lane. On February 27<sup>th</sup>, the Department will present the proposed site plan and documentation to the Design Commission for review of City Design and Sustainability Standards. Proposed amenities include a looped shared-use path, shade pavilions, playground and fitness zones, a fenced-in off-leash area, open lawn, and shade trees. No facilities or building are proposed. The project team expects to seek approval from Planning Commission on March 28<sup>th</sup>. **District 1**

<https://www.austintexas.gov/OertliPark>



*Proposed site plan for Oertli Neighborhood Park*

**Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Phase 2 Improvements:** The Joint Venture Miró Rivera Architects + Tatiana Bilbao ESTUDIO continues to make progress on Construction Documents being delivered in two packages – one for site/infrastructure construction and one for building



construction. The Development Services Department (DSD) is reviewing the site/infrastructure construction drawings. If the review is completed in time, the drawings will be presented to Planning Commission for approval on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Site construction is anticipated to begin in April 2023 and will be followed by building construction and renovations. Project completion is anticipated in early 2025. Funding is available through the voter-approved 2018 General Obligation Bonds and Parkland Dedication Fees. **District 9**

[www.austintexas.gov/MaccPhase2](http://www.austintexas.gov/MaccPhase2)

**Waterloo Greenway – The Confluence:** The second phase of the Waterloo Greenway, The Confluence, is anticipated to start construction this spring. On January 18<sup>th</sup> the Waller Creek Local Government Corporation approved the award and execution of the construction contract with Jay-Reese Contractors, for a total amount of \$75.7M. The approval was accompanied by a [press release](#) to announce this important milestone. The project is funded through a combination of public and private dollars, including but not limited to 2012 General Obligation Bonds, Watershed Drainage Utility Funds, US Army Corp Funds, Waller Creek TIRZ funds and private donations. The project team will return to provide an update to the Parks and Recreation Board and other Boards and Commissions this spring. Planning for a groundbreaking ceremony is underway with a tentative date anticipated in early May. Additional details and invitations to Board members will be provided once the date has been finalized. An addendum to the Construction Documents contract (Addendum 6) was presented at the Waller Creek Local Government Corporation meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup>. This addendum will add authority to the contract to complete the design scope and a site plan revision needed for coordination with two adjacent projects, the future IH-35 Expansion and Waterline (formerly 98 Red River). **Districts 1 and 9**



*Concept rendering of the Confluence Explorer's Garden,  
adjacent to the Butler Trail and Tunnel Outlet Facility, near Waller Boathouse.*

**Multi-purpose Field – Givens Recreation Center:** Givens Recreation Center continues to move forward with the project for the renovation of the multi-purpose field. The current project was temporarily delayed due to the acquisition of building permits. The site currently has the necessary permit to move

forward with the project to include the utility installation and structural foundations. The remaining poles for the field will be erected in the coming weeks in addition to an electrical conduit for a future scoreboard. The completion date for the project has been postponed until June-late July. **District 1**

**Gus Garcia AIPP Mural Project:** Gus Garcia Recreation Center (GGRC) and the GGRC advisory board are working closely with the Arts in Public Places (AIPP) program for the completion of a community mural. This mural will highlight Gustavo “Gus” Garcia and everything the recreation center named after him represents. The mural project officially started Monday October 3, 2022, and is more than 90% complete. **District 4**



*Gus Garcia AIPP Mural Project*

## MAINTENANCE UPDATES:

**Mary Moore Searight Metropolitan Park Parking and Road Asphalt Repairs:** Work began on February 6<sup>th</sup> to repair and renovate the 0.5-mile entry road and parking lot. New concrete ribbon curbs will be added to improve asphalt longevity and remediate degradation. The parking lot and roads will remain open for 'It's My Park Day' on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The work will shut down the main entry road and the parking lot for 3-4 days in mid-March for final paving. The work will not impact Paredes Middle School. Alternate parking options are available for the public on S. 1st Street and Decker Prairie Drive during this brief closure period. Updates are posted on the project webpage and yard signs are posted on site to notify the public. Department event staff has blocked out reservations and confirmed no conflicting events are scheduled. Anticipated completion is mid-March. The project is funded by 2018 Bonds and utilizes the PARC Asphalt Parking Lot/Roads IDIQ contract. **District 5**

<https://www.austintexas.gov/departments/mary-moore-searight-park-road-repairs>



*Work began on the Mary Moore Searight Metro Park parking lot renovation on February 6, 2023*

**Austin Memorial Park Tower Restroom Renovation:** Construction started on February 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Service Tower Restroom. Renovations to the nearly 100-year-old structure will preserve the historic architecture and features. Improvements will provide updated services and ADA compliance. Access to the park road, administration building, and entry will not be impacted during the renovation. Black screen netting will be installed on the construction fence to reduce visual impacts. Project completion is expected in April 2023. Funding is available through the voter-approved 2018 Parks Bond for Building Renovations. **District 7**

<https://www.austintexas.gov/departments/austin-memorial-park-cemetery-restroom-renovation>





*Current conditions, Austin Memorial Park Tower restroom*

**Aquatic Facility Maintenance Overview:** The Aquatic Division is continuing to work on December and February freeze damage repairs to restrooms and pump rooms along with working with Forestry for tree maintenance and clean up. New UV systems were installed at Lott and Chestnut Splash Pads. New filters were installed at Clarksville Splash Pad, Rosewood Splash Pad, Bartholomew Splash Pad and Little Stacy Pool. Civitan Pool was eco finished. New motors and updated pool pumps are being installed at Murchison Pool and Dottie Jordan Pool.

The pool bathhouse is almost completely repaired after recent winter freezes. One more shower stall needs to be addressed in the men's bath house and all pre-work approvals have been completed. Work has been approved for Barton Springs Bathhouse. Physical work began on Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Districts 1, 9 and 10**

**Hancock Recreation Center Upcoming Facility Work and Closure:** Hancock Recreation Center experienced AC water damage in July that is causing buckling of the floors. Asbestos/mold will need to be removed from the old entrance floors, and part of the ceiling where there is damage. During this time, the upstairs of the center will need to be closed until the floor is installed and ceiling is repaired. Exact dates and times have not been provided, but it is expected to happen in March 2023. After School Programs will still meet outside and downstairs. **District 9**

**Damage at Lamar Senior Activity Center:** Due to a damaged/nonfunctioning boiler circuit board there is no heat in 14 of the 16 rooms in the facility. The center is monitoring the temperature in each room and moving/canceling classes as needed. **District 9**

**Winter Storm Mara Tree Damage:** Winter Storm Mara tree and brush Impacts were substantial. 85-90% of the Parks have large hanging branches (hangers is the technical term) in the trees and have been prioritized as 1 – highest public safety/access concern and 3 – lower public access. The Department coordinated with partners through the Emergency Operations Center for additional resources. The current base estimate for these efforts is \$3.8 million using contractors. The work requires skilled tree climbers, individuals who can work elevated in trees and have training with chainsaws. The scale of the impact is large and the complete recover will take months. **All Districts**

**Tree Planting Season:** Forestry will plant 381 trees in the 2023 spring planting season. Below is a list of locations with number of trees that will be planted:

• Morris Williams Golf Course	115	<b>District 1</b>
• Civitan Neighborhood Park	16	<b>District 3</b>
• Mountain View Park	18	<b>District 6</b>
• Govalle Neighborhood Park	62	<b>District 3</b>
• Evergreen Cemetery	97	<b>District 1</b>
• Millennium Youth Complex	40	<b>District 1</b>
• Walsh Boat Landing	8	<b>District 10</b>
• Northwest Balcones	25	<b>District 6</b>

Planting is expected to be completed in February.

## PROGRAM UPDATES:

### **Southern Texas Professional Golfers Association Annual Meeting and Education Summit Award**

**Winners:** Two Golf ATX employees were recognized with awards at the 2023 Southern Texas Professional Golfers Association Annual Meeting and Education Summit.

Golf ATX Division Manager Steve Hammond was recognized with the Inaugural President's Award. The President's Award is given for distinguished service as a PGA Professional that upholds the values and mission of the game of golf and works tirelessly to grow the game each day.



*Steve and Bridgette Hammond  
Steve Hammond Inaugural President's Award Recipient*

Golf ATX Autumn Bynum was awarded the ROLEX STPGA Female Player of the Year. This is awarded to the STPGA Female Professional who has collected the most points over the year in sanctioned STPGA Golf Events. Autumn was also the first female player to win a Southern Texas PGA Major when she won the TPx Spring Classic at Blackhorse Golf Club with a tournament total of four under par. Autumn is a temporary Golf Services Associate at Clay/Kizer Pro Shop.





*Autumn Bynum  
ROLEX STPGA Female Player of the Year Recipient*

#### **District 1:**

**Big Wheels Program:** Turner-Roberts Recreation Center recently began its big wheels program. The structure of the program is for children ages seven and under and includes challenges, competitions and activities where youth use the big wheel trikes for games and competition. The activity is included in the Turner Roberts after-school program that has 30 plus participants ages seven and under. The Big wheel program is offered to the youth every Monday and Wednesday from 5-6 p.m.


**Central Area Basketball League:** Turner-Roberts Recreation Center hosts the central area basketball league each Saturday for youths ages five to ten. Games began February 11<sup>th</sup>, after being postponed due to Winter Storm Mara.

**Contractual Pickleball – Sports Kind:** Turner-Roberts Recreation Center hosts contractual pickleball through Sports Kind on Tuesdays and Thursday 6-9:30 p.m. Approximately 60 participants are registered in the program that highlights the growing demand and interest for pickleball services within the Austin community.

**Youthpreneurship:** Givens Recreation Center will be hosting its quarterly Youthpreneurship inside Givens gymnasium on February 26<sup>th</sup>, from 12-4 p.m. The event, which takes place each quarter, provides and encourages local youth vendors five years to 18 years of age the opportunity to learn how to build and run a business. Each vendor is allowed the opportunity to showcase their products and are provided a vendor table to merchandise and market their product to community members in attendance. Projected attendance is expected to be approximately 150 attendees. The event is strictly for youth and teen participants and is free to participate and to attend.

**Free Community Care – Givens Recreation Center:** Givens Recreation Center will partner with Community Care to provide free community care and resources through the effort of HIV testing and flu shots for any community resident interested. The event will be held onsite inside the facilities multi-purpose room on March 4<sup>th</sup>, from 10 a.m.–2 p.m., and will continue once per month until June. Future times and dates are yet to be determined. All testing and available resources will be free to the public.

**Flag Football Registration:** Givens Recreation Center began registration for its spring Flag Football program for youth ages 5-10. Registration is January 14<sup>th</sup> - March 19<sup>th</sup>. The league start date is scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup>.



Austin Parks & Recreation Department Prestens:

**CENTRAL AUSTIN  
FLAG  
FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

**FOR BOY & GIRLS**  
D1 D2 D3 D4  
**AGES: 5&6/7&8/9&10/11&12**  
Cheerleading - \$40 (Includes Shirt)  
Register Online: [www.austintexas.gov/parksonline](http://www.austintexas.gov/parksonline)

**League Information:**

- \$40 per player / \$20 with Financial Aid (includes jersey & award)
- Registration Dates: Jan. 1st - March 19th 2023

**Season Start Dates:**

- April 6th - May 11th 2023 (@ Givens Rec.)
- All games will be at Givens 3811 E. 12th St 78721 512-974-2430

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*Givens Recreation Center Co-Ed flag football league flyer*

**Lunar New Year Makers Market – Asian American Resource Center (AARC):** The Asian American Resource Center’s first ever Lunar New Year Makers Market was held on January 28<sup>th</sup>, celebrating the Year of the Rabbit and the Year of the Cat. The event drew over 600 attendees, many of them first time visitors to the AARC. The market consisted of a curated lineup of creatives including artists, bakers, jewelry makers, crocheters and even a hat maker. While browsing the market, attendees were able to enjoy a performance by the Asian Memory Project featuring music from the video game Animal Crossing. In addition, Asian Family Support Services of Austin (AFSSA), Watershed Protection, and Austin Police Department tabled at the event.



*Artist Jasmine Nguyen Gutierrez at her booth with an event attendee*

**Gibson Girls: Victorian Secret – Brush Square Museums:** This Spring, The Department’s Brush Square Museums will be showing visitors all the secrets of getting dressed as a Gibson Girl. The Gibson Girl image was created by artist Charles Dana Gibson in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries in the United States. Charles Gibson saw his creation as representative of “thousands of American girls.” Gabi Lobb, one of the docents at the Susanna Dickinson Museum, will be leading audiences through the process of creating the outfit step by step, and explaining the uses behind each article of clothing as well as demonstrating how to wear them. This is a social media project that will also be used for living history programs. What fun! The program will run from January 24<sup>th</sup> - September 11<sup>th</sup>. Learn more on Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/reel/879726889941149/?s=single\\_unit](https://www.facebook.com/reel/879726889941149/?s=single_unit).



*Photo Depicting a Collage*



**District 2:**

**Basketball Clinic – George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center:** The George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center hosted a youth basketball clinic in collaboration with the Austin Spurs on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, from 6–7 p.m. Players from the Austin Spurs team engaged in fundamental basketball activities with 52 youth participants.

**District 3:**

**Mother Son Dance:** Parque Zaragoza Recreation recently hosted Mother Son Dance on January 27<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. 25 participants were in attendance for the event which included music, activities, food, and games held inside the site's basketball gymnasium.

**Parent's Night Out:** Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, Delores Duffie Recreation Center hosted its parent's night out event. Six youth attendees were in attendance for the event that included arts and crafts games, cooking projects, and BINGO in the Doris Miller Auditorium. The event was free for all in attendance.

**Winter Basketball Program – Delores Duffie Recreation Center:** Delores Duffie currently has five youth teams registered in the Community Recreation Division youth winter basketball program. The site began their first game, Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, after the season opener was postponed due to the Winter Storm Mara one week prior. Games are played each Saturday at Turner Roberts recreation center and runs for the next five Saturdays through the March 11<sup>th</sup>. 56 participants are registered for this program.

**2023 Lone Star Legacy Park Award:** The Pan Am Recreation Center was recently named a 2023 Lone Star Legacy Park. The Lone Star Legacy Award will be presented at the Opening General Session of the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) Institute on the morning of Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, at the Frisco Embassy Suites and Convention Center. A special congrats to the Pan Am community, site and staff who now serve as an additional park within the Department and central area sites to receive this award alongside Givens, Parque Zaragoza, and Rosewood Recreation Centers. Site staff and Division Manager David Crabb will be onsite to accept the award on the department and city's behalf.

**Valentine's Day Dance – Rodolfo "Rudy" Mendez Recreation Center:** Mendez Recreation Center hosted a Valentine's Day Dance the evening of Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, and the community did not disappoint. This was the biggest dance ever! Over 130 participants arrived ready to show off their moves. The DJ played a mixture of hip-hop, cumbias & line dances, and a dance battle even broke out. The anticipated balloon drop was a huge hit. Participants claimed a balloon, popped it, and won prizes according to what was in their balloon. After that, everyone enjoyed a spaghetti dinner to end the night.



*A Night of Music, Fun and Dance Battles at Valentine's Day Dance*

**Montopolis Recreation Center:** The Montopolis Recreation and Community Center began its first ever Toddler Dance Class. The dance class has 10 toddlers registered. Dancing with Destiny is for ages 3-4 and is hosted every Monday from 5-6 p.m.



*Toddlers Warming Up for Dance Class  
Montopolis Recreation Center*

**Winter Storm Mara Recovery – Montopolis Recreation Center:** The Montopolis Recreation and Community Center collaborated with multiple organizations for a Multi-Agency Resource Center, on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. The event was to provide resources and assistance to Austin-Travis County Winter Storm Mara Recovery. Some of the assistance provided included, but were not limited to, debris and damage assistance, mental health support, financial information, and more. 20 attendees from the community attended the event.

#### **District 4:**

**Winter Basketball:** Virginia L. Brown basketball teams kicked off their winter season on Saturday February 11<sup>th</sup>. Teams and coaches have been practicing weekly throughout the month. The season is from February 4<sup>th</sup> - March 11<sup>th</sup>, and 26 participants are registered.

**Black History Month – Virginia L. Brown Black History Month Event:** Virginia L. Brown partnered with Austin Independent School District to celebrate Black History Month on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 6-7:30 p.m. The community was invited to enjoy free food, music, and performances from students and local partners. Projected attendance is approximately 50 attendees at the event.



### **District 8:**

#### **Zilker Botanical Garden Projects:**

- Shared Use Path update: Phase I of a shared use path that will go from under Mopac in front of the Zilker Botanical and along Stratford Drive to the Austin Nature and Science is underway. Funds of over one million dollars provided largely through Council District 8 and City of Austin departments.
- Have Rose/Herb Garden Renovation: Two old beds that are not actively used at the base of Herb Garden have been removed, creating a gathering/program area.
- Children's Garden: Outdoor Musical instruments have been installed in the Children's Garden. Thanks to the donation and work from Violet Crown Garden Club.
- Dino Days – February 18<sup>th</sup> - March 18<sup>th</sup>: Dino Days returns in full force this year, complete with weekly activities in the Hartman Garden, a Dinosaur Costume Parade and Art Contest, and new Story Walk in the Children's Garden. Check website for programming specifics:  
<https://zilker garden.org/dino-days-2/>. Come and enjoy or volunteer and help implement this popular exhibit-based programming.

### **District 9:**

**Totally Cool, Totally Art (TCTA):** The TCTA program hosted its annual teen art exhibition at the Mexic-arte Museum February 14-28. TCTA in partnership with the Mexic-arte Museum have been hosting this exhibition for 25 years. It's a great opportunity to publicly display the wonderful art the participants have created so far in this year's program, as well as recognize them for their outstanding achievements. Parents, families, staff, and participants attended the student award reception that included rewards and refreshments on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Over 100 participants attended the event. Additional information on TCTA including details on the exhibit can be found at <https://www.austintexas.gov/departments/totally-cool-totally-art>.

**Indigenous Healing Demonstration – Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center (ESB MACC):** This event was presented by Marika Alvarado who is a medicine woman & traditional healer and Maria Marengo who is a curandera & traditional healer. Marika and Maria are both practitioners at Of the Earth Institute of Indigenous Cultures and Teachings. This popular demonstration was part of the ESB MACC's Holistic Wellness Programming which is taking place at City of Austin sites while the MACC building is under construction. Participants gained an understanding of the ceremonial clothing, *limpias* (cleansings), and sampling of traditional teas used in *curanderismo*. Over 40 participants enjoyed the demonstration, which was held on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Austin Central Library.



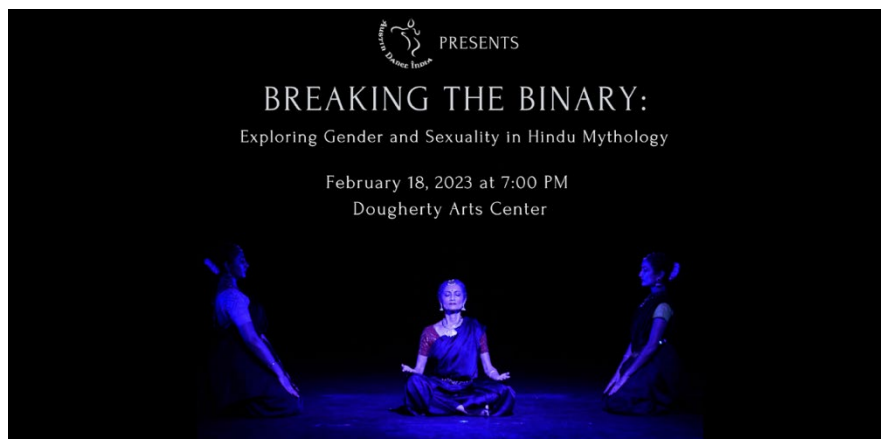
*Indigenous Healing Presentation by Marika Alvarado*

**The Mother the Witch the Hysteric Exhibit at Elisabet Ney Museum:** Showcases the work of local artist Annie May Johnston. The Museum continues to present local contemporary female identifying artists within the walls of the museum allowing visitors to experience an artist reacting to the life or work of Elisabet Ney. This spring, the Ney welcomes Johnston as she works in collaboration with Elisabet Ney's striking sculpture of Lady Macbeth. Johnston's unique printmaking practice employs new technologies alongside traditional processes. Considering gendered traits, the supernatural and pseudo-science, her new artwork combines images and interpretations of Lady Macbeth, Elisabet Ney, and herself. This exhibition is in partnership with PrintAustin, an artist-led nonprofit organization working to showcase traditional and contemporary approaches in printmaking. The exhibition opened on January 25<sup>th</sup>, with a reception and will continue through March 5<sup>th</sup>. To date, over 100 attendees have participated in this event.



*Photo Depicting an Artwork by Annie May Johnston  
Displayed at the Elisabet Ney Museum*

**Breaking the Binary: Exploring Gender and Sexuality in Hindu Mythology – Dougherty Arts Center:** On Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, Austin Dance India, under the artist direction of Anuradha Naimpally, presented Breaking the Binary: Exploring gender and sexuality in Hindu Mythology. Breaking the Binary wove together multiple performing media, with Indian classical dance, a haunting musical track, and spoken word. Breaking the Binary explored narratives with examples of people whose flexible identities and sexuality exist within a context that is not only tolerant but also accepting and supportive. Austin Dance India is part of the Artist Access Program, through the City of Austin's Parks and Recreation Department, Museums and Cultural Programs Division and the Dougherty Arts Center. Estimated attendance is 100 people. Additional information can be found at the Dougherty Art Center's Program and Events page: <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/dougherty-arts-center-programs-and-events>.



*Breaking the Binary: Exploring Gender and Sexuality in Hindu Mythology*

### **Multiple Districts:**

**Historic Texas Cemetery Designations:** In 2022, both Longview Cemetery and Plummers Cemetery were recorded as Historic Texas Cemeteries (HTC) through the Texas Historical Commission. The HTC designation was developed in 1998 to help protect historic cemeteries by recording cemetery boundaries in county deed records, alerting present and future owners of adjacent land to the cemetery's existence. In the 2015 Austin Cemeteries Vision Plan, one of the outlined goals was to obtain HTC designation for all Department-owned cemeteries.

Longview Church-School was erected in the present-day Longview Park around 1874, and presumably, the Longview Cemetery was established at the same time. On May 4, 1922, twin tornadoes ripped through Travis County destroying the Longview Church-School and nearby homesteads. The proximate Bargsley Farm was also devastated, and Sarah L. Arrington Bargsley and Ada Lena Bargsley were buried at Longview Cemetery. The City of Austin acquired the property for Longview Neighborhood Park in 1981, and the agreement ordered the City maintain the graves located within the tract.

Plummers Cemetery was likely established before 1895, the date of the oldest gravestone still extant, by Thomas "Plum" Plummer and his wife Alice Plummer as a cemetery for African Americans. The cemetery was also known as the Mount Calvary Cemetery, and it appears to have been most active between 1900 and 1975, although burials continue to the present day. In 1957, the City of Austin acquired this eight-acre cemetery as a condition of the purchase of the land for Givens District Park. The designation process was facilitated by the Department's Historic Preservation and Tourism Program. As a next step, the Department will install interpretive signage at the sites and include official HTC medallions.

### **Districts 1 and 5**

**Spring Community PARKnerships Pop-Ups:** In the fall and winter, the [Community PARKnerships Program](#) explored the role of programming to serve as an outreach tool and activate park spaces with free programming opportunities. The goal was to provide support to Adopt-A-Park and partner groups in Districts 1-4, and to connect communities to play opportunities presented by nature play features. Each site had corresponding stewardship and partner groups collaborate on at least one of the Pop-Ups. The events included a nature-inspired biking obstacle course, seed-ball making, the-floor-is-lava, and other nature play favorites, as well as unstructured play sessions. By demonstrating a template for low-barrier activities as "Pop-Ups" that featured free to rent [Loose Parts Kits](#), our team hopes to encourage



PARKners to replicate programming and insert opportunities relevant to their neighborhood needs, and to provide support throughout that process. Since the pilot program began in August 2022, the pop-ups have attracted over 100 participants and 6 non-profit or Adopt-A-Park groups to collaborate and share information on Pop-Ups. Participation continued to grow as the program became more well-known. This spring, our team is bringing Pop-Ups to Wooldridge Elementary School Park (District 4), Armadillo Neighborhood Park (District 2), and Davis White Northeast Neighborhood Park (District 1). While the Pop-Ups are centered around Nature Play, they also provide an opportunity for community members to build relationships with our Community PARKnerships team. **Districts 1-4**



*Children participating in a Pop-Up at Wooldridge Elementary School Park (District 4)*

**South Austin Recreation Center:** Aerial Silks Contract Class is in its second session at South Austin Recreation Center with 12 participants. The class involves aerial challenges for ages 8 to 12 years old. Classes will be held January 17<sup>th</sup> - March 17<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30-5:30 p.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m. **Districts 3 and 5.**



*Participant's "learning the ropes" in the aerial silks class.*

**All Districts:**

**Summer Camp Registration:** Early registration for Recreation Center participants preapproved for Financial Aid or Adaptive/Inclusion Support and who are Austin Residents, will have early registration from February 18-24. [www.austintexas.gov/summercamps](http://www.austintexas.gov/summercamps)

After early registration, Summer Camp registration for:

- Therapeutic begins February 18<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. for Austin residents.
- Cultural & Arts begins February 25<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. for Austin residents and at 2:00 p.m. for non-residents.
- Austin Nature and Science Center/Camacho Activity Center begins February 25<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 p.m. for Austin residents and at 2:00 p.m. for non-residents.
- Community Recreation begins March 4<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. for Austin residents and at 12:00 p.m. for non-resident.

**Spring Youth Soccer:** Registration is currently open for Spring Youth Soccer for ages 3-12. Registration is scheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup> - March 11<sup>th</sup>, and all recreation centers. Practices begin in early April with games starting mid-April.



*Spring Youth Soccer Flyer*

**ULI TAP:** In February, Community PARKnerships and the Austin Parks Foundation sponsored a Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) facilitated by the Urban Land Institute (ULI). The goal of the TAP was to investigate barriers to participation in the Adopt-A-Park (AAP) program for communities of color and low-income communities. The panel was comprised of seven individuals working in diverse fields surrounding park equity, from community engagement consultants to the leaders of park nonprofits in other cities. The panel was briefed on the program history, funding mechanisms, partnership models, and Austin demographic context. A tour of three parks along the northeastern crescent offered time to share

anecdotes of park partnerships and equity concerns. Following the tour, the panelists interviewed over 40 of our community members who steward Austin parks. These interviewees kindly shared their experiences interfacing with the AAP program to reach community goals at the park sites they steward. Following interviews, panelists assembled a series of initial findings and recommendations, which will be synthesized into a report in May. These findings were categorized into four major barriers: Relationship between APF and the Parks and Recreation Department, Communication, Volunteer Expectations, and Alignment with Community Needs. Although our teams are awaiting the final report, we've been able to suggest changes that are actionable in the short term. The Department is excited to make change backed by the words of our park stewards and in support of furthering equity in the Adopt-A-Park program.

**Winter Storm Recovery:** Communications staff continue to share critical information and updates about tree safety, City recovery resources, parkland and PARD-managed facility assessment and maintenance, and other storm and recovery content. Department updates on closures due to the storm are posted at [AustinTexas.gov/ParkClosures](https://austintexas.gov/#!/ParkClosures).

**Black History Month:** A social media information campaign featuring videos, photos, and information about local black history as well as Black History Month events and exhibits at Museums and Cultural Centers is in the works. The campaign was temporarily paused due to storm-related communications taking precedence in early February. Event information is available at [AustinTexas.gov/BlackHistory](https://austintexas.gov/#!/BlackHistory).

## ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:

**Recruiting Efforts:** The Aquatic Division continues with hiring and recruiting efforts on all fronts. As of February 6<sup>th</sup>, there have been 107 active lifeguard applicants. All applicants have been contacted with next steps for hiring and are in various states. Marketing and communications plans include testimonials from former lifeguards, paid advertising, earned media interviews, and community outreach. Details at [LifeguardAustin.com](https://lifeguardaustin.com).

The process for hiring 13 FTE lifeguards continues moving forward as planned. First round of physical assessments is scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m.

**Lifeguard Training:** The Aquatic Division will also offer the following lifeguard trainings in the upcoming weeks:

- Renewal Lifeguard Class at Bartholomew Pool (R6), February 25-26
- Full Lifeguard Class at Bartholomew Pool (F7), March 3-12
- Full Lifeguard Class at Garrison Pool (F8), March 11-14

Additionally, training of current staff on new materials related to new Cash Report app is underway. The new Cash Report app will go into effect at the start of the charging season on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Zilker Train:** The Parks and Recreation Board (PARB) received an update on January 5, 2021, regarding the execution of the Construction, Operations, and Maintenance Agreement for a Miniature Train Operation at Zilker Metropolitan Park with the Austin Parks Foundation (Foundation). During ongoing testing, the Foundation found additional parts and retrofitting are needed. Additionally, the difficulty in



obtaining parts timely has further delayed their timeline. The Foundation has a website that provides details on opening and activities related to the train at <https://www.zilkertrain.org/>.

**Recreation Management System:** The contract with the current vendor, Vermont Systems (RecTrac), for recreation management, expires in September 2022. PARD, with the assistance of the Communications and Technology Management Department (CTM), published a Request for Information (RFI) to survey current technology solutions in the Recreation Management Industry. PARD/CTM received three responses and conducted vendor question and answer sessions and vendor system demonstrations, along with meetings with current user organizations, between September and October 2021. Based on the information gathered, PARD will work with CTM to establish a scope of work (SOW) and conduct a formal solicitation for a future Recreation Management System. As CTM is the principal information technology department that focuses on the delivery and operations of vital IT infrastructure network and telecommunications services for the City, they will facilitate the competitive solicitation process. This includes establishing a CTM project manager and creating a timeline for the solicitation process. In October 2022, PARD began working with a CTM project manager to establish timeline and deliverables for the solicitation scope of work. PARD anticipates the solicitation process will take over a year to complete. PARD will continue to utilize RecTrac services throughout the solicitation process until a recommended vendor is established.

**Watercraft Concession at 2418 Stratford Drive:** The contract with the current vendor, Rowing Dock, expires April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Scope of Work (SOW) was developed and presented at the September CCC meeting. The solicitation was published on November 9, 2022, and closed January 3, 2023, with four proposals submitted. The proposals received are currently under review and evaluation with a recommendation for award. A new agreement is expected to be executed prior to end of current agreement in April 2024.

**Management and Operation of the Pharr Tennis Center:** This agreement is for the management and operations of the renovated Burnett “Blondie” Pharr Tennis Center (Pharr). The soon to be renovated facility is anticipated to be completed in August 2023. The CCC was briefed at the October 21, 2022 meeting on the solicitation, which is anticipated to be released in early 2023.

**Interlocal Agreement between City of Austin and Austin Community College:** This agreement is an interlocal agreement that allows the Austin Community College to utilize specified areas of the Turner Roberts Recreation Center to offer consulting and training classes to the public at no charge to participants nor the City.

**Amendment to the Operations and Management of the Waller Creek Boathouse:** On September 1, 2022, Council approved resolution no. 20220901-085, which directs the City Manager to coordinate with the Austin Rowing Club to extend the concession contract up until the actual scheduled demolition of the Waller Creek Boathouse. The current agreement with Austin Rowing Club will expire February 28<sup>th</sup>. This contract amendment extends the term of the agreement by 36 months and will provide continued watercraft rentals and recreation at the Waller Creek Boathouse on Lady Bird Lake. In addition, it will allow for continued planning for Project Connect.

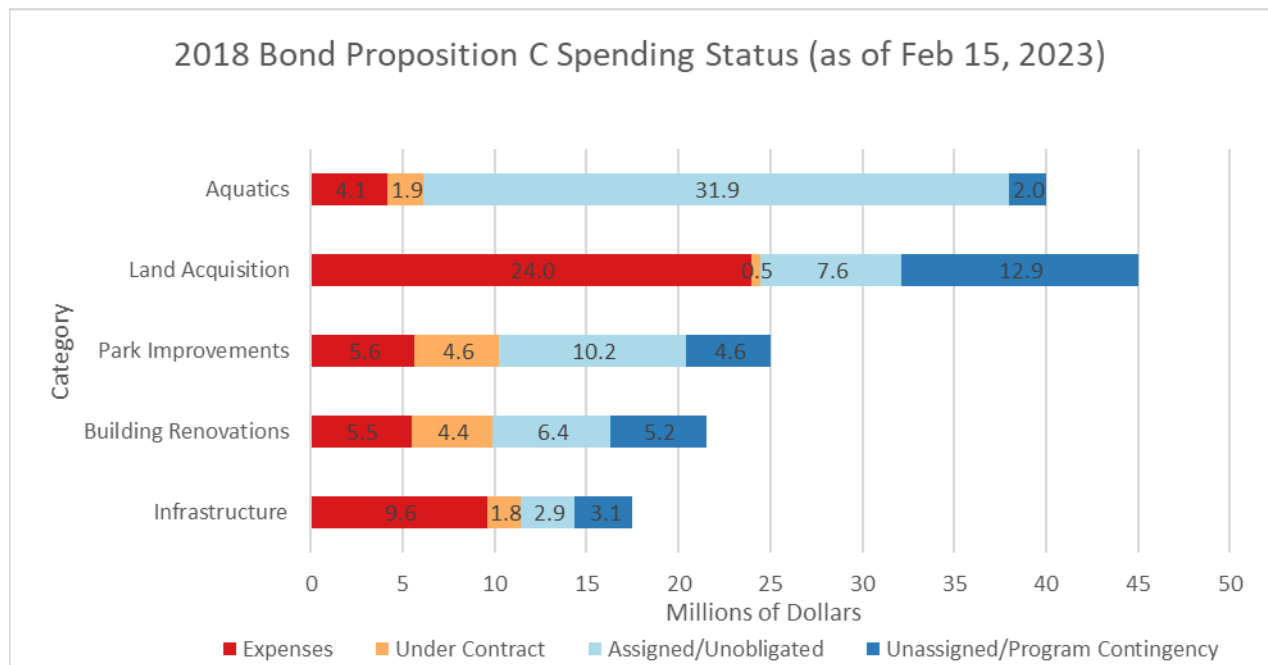
**First Amended Agreement Between the City and The Trail Conservancy (TTC) Regarding Stand-Up Paddle Board Concession:** In December 2022, Council approved Ordinance No. 20221208-062, for the extension of the original agreement with TTC at the existing EpicSUP site located at 2200 South

Lakeshore Boulevard. The original agreement, executed in April 2021, allowed TTC to enter into stand-up paddle board concession agreement with EpicSUP through December 2022. This amended agreement allows TTC to continue to operate the stand-up paddle board concession with EpicSUP commencing on January 1<sup>st</sup>, for a period of up to five years.

### 2018 General Obligation Bond Program Proposition C - Parks and Recreation (\$149 million) Update:

Funding from Proposition C has contributed to over 90 projects and 30 parkland acquisition efforts throughout the City of Austin. The Department has spent \$48.9 million of the \$149 million authorized and has a further \$13.3 million under contract. Recent highlights in the program include:

- City Council approved the acquisition of [two adjacent parcels](#) totaling 9.05 acres in the Slaughter Creek Greenbelt system (District 5)
- The [Givens District Park Vision Plan Phase I Implementation](#) (District 1) is under construction and is expected to be completed in late Spring 2023
- The [Brush Square Rehabilitation Phase I](#) (District 9) is under construction and is expected to be completed in late Spring 2023
- The [Pharr Tennis Center Renovation](#) (District 9) is under construction and is expected to be completed in early Summer 2023
- The [Brownie](#) and [Highland](#) Neighborhood Park (District 4) projects started construction in December and are expected to be completed in late 2023
- Playground and associated accessibility improvements at [Dottie Jordan](#) Neighborhood Park (District 1) and [Northwest Recreation Center](#) (District 7) are under construction
- The [Givens](#) and [Colony Park](#) Pool (District 1) projects are in permitting and will begin construction in Spring 2023
- City Council will consider an item to authorize negotiation and execution of the construction contract for [Duncan Neighborhood Park](#) (District 9) on February 23. Construction will begin in Spring 2023



Due to heavy construction cost escalation pressure, the Department continues to hold balances in the Aquatics, Building Renovations, Park Improvements, and Infrastructure categories to serve as program contingencies for ongoing work. Project level financial data can be found in the [Bond Programs section](#) of the Austin Open Data portal's Public Improvement Bond page.