

SUMMARY

One can think of Zilker Park as a complicated puzzle of elements that need to come together to create a holistic park. The decisions made for one element have impacts for the other aspects of the park – from ecological uplift to transportation initiatives to cultural programs and policies. It is also important to acknowledge that the plan needs to solve the challenges faced today, but allow for innovative solutions to address climate change, transportation, and generally being a park for a thriving, growing city. The park has been in existence since 1917; this is the first comprehensive plan for Zilker Park since its inception, so the plan needs to think 100 years forward to plan for a sustainable, thriving park.

This chapter outlines the plan recommendations which are based fully on the community outreach and stakeholder conversations that have taken place over the course of the planning process.

CHAPTER FIVE

IN THIS CHAPTER

Vision Plan Overview
Vision Plan Structure

THE VISION PLAN

OVERVIEW OF THE VISION PLAN

PLAN FEATURES

- 1** Land Bridge to connect north and south sides of Barton Springs Road and more broadly connect with regional trail systems.
- 2** 93 acres of Ecological Uplift to heal back environmentally damaged spaces within the park.
- 3** Improved access within and into the park via shuttles and increased connections across the creek and lake.
- 4** Welcome Center that repurposes the Caretakers Cottage and Quonset Cabin to serve as a hub for visitors.

PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

The Zilker Park Vision Plan represents thousands of individual comments from the community, thousands of hours of work, and addressing today's challenges while looking into the future for a sustainable park for all of Austin. The park exists physically in the center of Austin and also at the center of many planning initiatives that will potentially shape the way people get around the city, to the park and enjoy the park spaces.

The Zilker Park Vision Plan will potentially take decades to realize the full vision. This serves as a roadmap for City leadership, decision-makers, and collaborators as implementation moves forward. The recommendations include projects, policies, programs and partnerships. It is understood that these elements will move forward as opportunities arise – funding opportunities, partnership opportunities, and other tangential City projects.





CURRENT CONDITION





THE VISION PLAN



**PEDESTRIAN
UNDERPASS**

ROWING DOCK

STRATFORD DR

**ZILKER
CLUB HOUSE**

P

**NATURE
PRESERVE**

**AUSTIN NATURE AND
SCIENCE CENTER**

MOPAC



NORTHERN AREA

- 1** Parking Garage under MoPac or just east will be used for the visitors to Zilker Botanical Garden, Austin Nature and Science Center, and the Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail.
- 2** Stratford Drive would be realigned to the east of MoPac, along the Zilker Botanical Garden. If the road were to be built here, a sound wall could be built as part of that project to help mitigate noise.
- 3** The existing landfill area will be restored woodland and meadow with ecological uplift.

ECOLOGICAL UPLIFT ON LANDFILL AREA





CURRENT CONDITION

BOTA

BARTON

PO

**MCBETH
RECREATION
CENTER**

**DISC GOLF
AREA**

ANDREW ZILKER RD

SUNSHINE CAMP

COLUMBUS DR

VIOLET CROWN TRAILHEAD



THE VISION PLAN



NATURE
PLAY

TRAILHEAD OF NATURE
PRESERVE TRAIL

DISC GOLF
AREA

CONCESSION

CHILDREN'S
PLAY
SPORTS
AREA

BASEBALL
FIELD

VOLLEYBALL
COURTS

DISC GOLF
AREA

DISC GOLF
WARM-UP AREA

NEW
MAINTENANCE
FACILITY

MCBETH
RECREATION
CENTER

SUNSHINE
CAMP

NEW EN
SUNS

TRAILHEAD



CENTRAL AREA

- 4** The land bridge will stitch the park back together by joining the north and south sides of the park with an underground parking garage.
- 5** Sports area will bring existing activities together, including baseball, volleyball, to the east side of Polo Field Lawn near existing Disc Golf courses.
- 6** The new Zilker Hillside Theater is integrated with the land bridge.
- 7** Barton Springs Road may be reduced to one lane of traffic each way, with on-street parallel parking and improved bus stops.

ZILKER LAND BRIDGE





ZILKER HILLSIDE THEATER





CURRENT CONDITION





THE VISION PLAN





EASTERN SIDE

- 8** Picnic area with concession and restroom is another gathering spot for the visitors around Great Lawn.
- 9** The pedestrian and bike bridge is relocated to along Toomey Road, increasing connectivity.
- 10** Lou Neff Road is becoming pedestrian and bike only trail with emergency or maintenance vehicle access.
- 11** The new bridge across Lady Bird Lake provides another crossing point between Roberta Crenshaw Bridge and Pfluger Pedestrian Bridge.

BARTON SPRINGS SPILLWAY





CURRENT CONDITION

POLO FIELD

ANDREW ZILKER RD

MOON TOWER

SUNSHINE
CAMP

COLUMBUS DR

ZILKER
HILLSIDE
THEATER

VIOLET CROWN
TRAILHEAD

BARTON

GREAT LAWN



An aerial photograph of Barton Springs Park with various areas and features labeled. The map includes labels for 'THE VISION PLAN', 'SOUTHERN AREA', 'POLO FIELD LAWN', 'DISC GOLF AREA', 'PLAYGROUND', 'ENTRANCE PARKING', 'MOON TOWER', 'ANDREW ZILKER RD', 'NEW ENTRY ROAD TO SUNSHINE CAMP', 'ROCK GARDEN', 'COLUMBUS DR', 'VIOLET CROWN TRAILHEAD', 'NEW PED/BIKE BRIDGE', 'BARTON CREEK', 'SOUTH PICNIC AREA', 'Caretaker's Cottage', and 'Quonset Hut'. The map also shows a red outline of the 'SOUTH PICNIC AREA' and a red 'P' icon near the 'NEW ENTRY ROAD TO SUNSHINE CAMP'.

THE VISION PLAN

SOUTHERN AREA

12 A new bridge connects the parking garage to the Welcome Center.

13 Caretaker's Cottage and Quonset Hut in Welcome Center are repurposed to educational purpose.

14 The south entrance of Barton Springs Pool would remain available year-round with access to new playscapes for families.

15 Barton Creek will be rehabilitated with controlled water access and erosion treatments.

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**POLO FIELD
LAWN**

PLAYGROUND

ENTRANCE PARKING

MOON TOWER

DISC GOLF AREA

ANDREW ZILKER RD

NEW ENTRY ROAD TO SUNSHINE CAMP

ROCK GARDEN

COLUMBUS DR

VIOLET CROWN TRAILHEAD

**NEW PED/BIKE
BRIDGE**

BARTON

**SOUTH
PICNIC AREA**

GREAT LAWN



SOUTH SIDE OF BARTON SPRINGS POOL





CURRENT CONDITION

MCBETH
RECREATION
CENTER

GIRL SCOUT
CABIN

BARTON CREEK



DISC GOLF
AREA

POLO FIELD

ANDREW ZILKER RD

SUNSHINE
CAMP

COLUMBUS DR

VIOLET CROWN
TRAILHEAD

ZILKER
HILLSIDE
THEATER

VIOLET
CROWN TRAIL

BARTON SPRINGS POOL