

## PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**DATE:** May 2023

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### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS:

**Community Resource Fair at George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center:** The George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center collaborated with Austin Public Health to host a Community Resource Fair on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The 180 participants who attended this event were exposed to a variety of beneficial organizations and their resources. Vendors who attended this event included Austin Healthy Adolescent, Austin Police Department, Austin Independent School District Head start, Sendero, Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC) and many more. **District 2**



*Councilwoman Vanessa Fuentes Engages with  
Youth Event Volunteers and Participants*



*Event Participants Engage with MACC Staff*

**Gus Garcia Art in Public Places (AIIP) Mural Project:** Gus Garcia Recreation Center (GGRC) and the GGRC advisory board, who are working closely with the Arts in Public Places program, have completed the mural project. This mural which highlights Gustavo “Gus” Garcia and everything the recreation center named after him represents, will be unveiled at the ribbon cutting event. The ribbon cutting event will be on May 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. **District 4**

**Old Bakery & Emporium Community Table Conversations:** The Old Bakery & Emporium is partnering with The Downtown Austin Alliance to consider a mural on the North end of the building. The first community engagement meetings about mural content were held on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday May 10<sup>th</sup> with professional members of the arts and culture community including Rick Hernandez, Fidencio Duran, Niz, J Muzacz, Raul Valdez, and Constance White. 16 people were in attendance.  
**District: 1**



*Mural Location on the Wall to the Right of the Courtyard*



*Focus Group in Progress on May 9, 2023*

**Intergenerational Resource and Activity Center and Programming Exploration Survey:** In response to Resolution No. 20221208-059, the Parks and Recreation Department is partnering with Austin Public Health and the Intergenerational Resource and Activity Center Advisory Group to explore aspects of a possible future center serving older adults and young children at Nash Hernandez Building. In addition, PARD and APH are partnering to facilitate community engagement around a possible intergenerational center and programming at four possible locations: Nash Hernandez Building (78702, District 3), Rudy Mendez Recreation Center (78702, District 3), Dittmar Recreation Center (78745, District 2), and George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center (78745, District 2). A survey is being shared with communities around these locations through flyers and pop-ups near each site. In addition, a virtual community meeting will be held, date to be determined. Additional information can be found on the project webpage: <https://www.austintexas.gov/intergenerational>.

**Survey Link:** [www.publicinput.com/intergenerational](http://www.publicinput.com/intergenerational)

**Districts 2 and 3**

**Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex Community Engagement:** Beginning in May, the Parks and Recreation Department in connection with the Austin Rosewood Community Development Corporation and ASM Global (MYEC management) will facilitate engagement with MYEC stakeholders to ensure robust opportunities for participation. As acknowledged in the MYEC Audit Report (August 2020), this

process will help to build trust among the various MYEC stakeholders and aims to reconnect with longtime interested community members and users of the Millennium. The process begins with a survey that also invites interested parties to participate in additional small group conversations. The survey is now available to provide input. Small group conversations will be scheduled in the summer.

**Survey Link:** <https://www.publicinput.com/myec1>

#### **District 1**

**Grand Meadow Neighborhood Park Concept Plan:** The second community meeting for the Grand Meadow Neighborhood Park Concept Plan will take place in person on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 8022 Thaxton Road, Austin, TX 78747 at 10:00 a.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. **District 2**

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

**Arts and Culture on Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail:** On May 20<sup>th</sup>, the Trail Conservancy (TTC) hosted a kick-off open house for the Arts and Culture Plan at the Seaholm Intake Facility, 801 West Cesar Chavez Street, from 9-11 a.m. In 2021, City Council authorized the negotiation and execution of an agreement with The Trail Conservancy for the operation, maintenance, and programming of the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail at Town Lake Metropolitan Park. As part of the programming effort, TTC launched the development of an Arts and Culture plan for the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail. The plan was recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board at the March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting and approved by Council on April 13<sup>th</sup>. **Districts 3, 5, 8, 9 and 10**

<https://thetrailconservancy.org/events/>



*Flyer for the Trail Conservancy Open House on May 2*



## PLANNING UPDATES:

**Givens Recreation Center/District Park Multi-use Field Project:** The Givens Recreation Center/District Park new restroom, multi-use field, field lighting, and plaza enters the final phase of the project. To date the lighting has been installed and the electrical lines are set to be laid, followed by the adding perimeter of concrete and drainages for the plaza, leveling of the hillside slope, and the installation of turf. The project, supplemented by the General Obligation (GO) Bond, after recent delays is set to be completed late June to early July, with the ribbon cutting set for mid to late July. For more information related to the project, please reference the link [Givens District Park Improvements | AustinTexas.gov](#).

### **District 1**

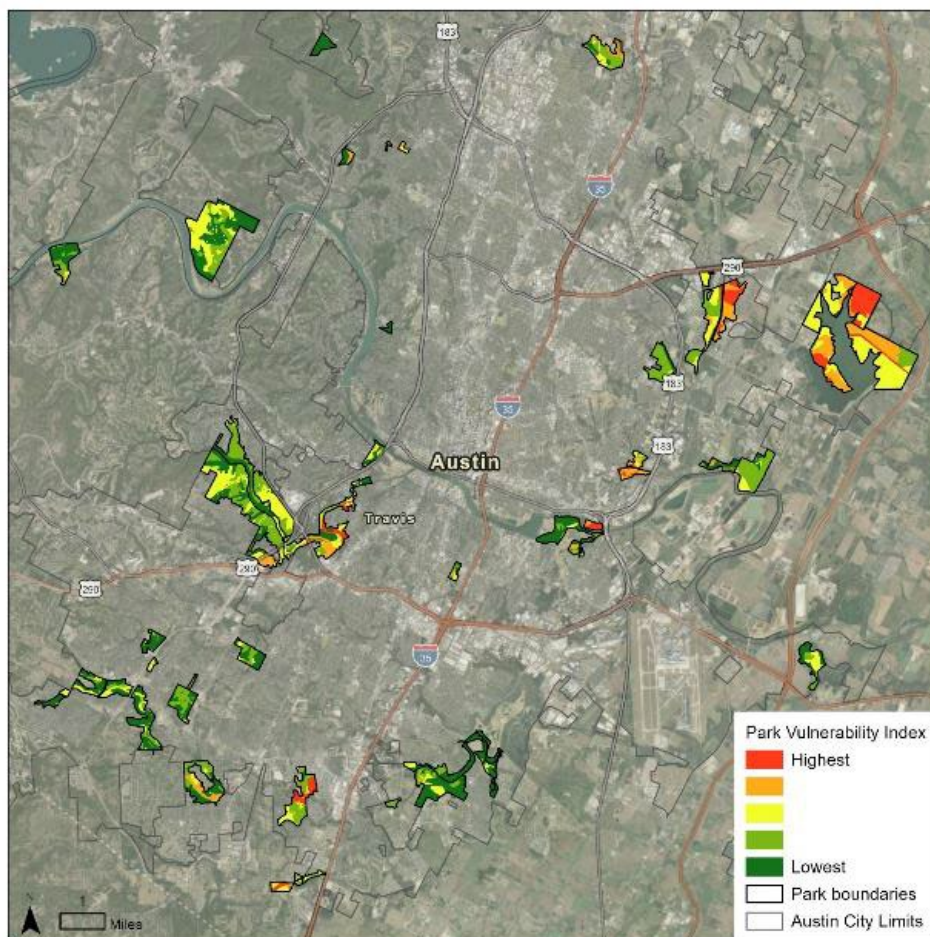
**Mendez Recreation Center Bike Polo Project:** Completion of the bike polo court at Metz Park is almost complete as the project closes out phase two. Estimated completion date is early June. This stage includes the development of the project the concrete barrier has since been erected, and the contracts are working on the completions of Americans with Disabilities Act accessible walkways, laying drainage pipes and backfilling around the perimeter from the court to the building. **District 3**



*Mendez Recreation Center Bike Polo Project at Metz Park*

**Land Management Program:** A draft of the Recommended Land Management Strategies and Climate Vulnerability Analysis, or “PARD land management plan,” is nearing completion and will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Board on June 26<sup>th</sup> and to City Council on July 20<sup>th</sup>. The Council’s Audit and Finance Committee will receive a plan update on May 24<sup>th</sup>. The land management plan is a technical guiding document for the more than 10,000 acres of natural areas. Implementation of the recommended strategies will maximize community benefits, mitigate risk, and provide ecosystem services, especially those that support human health and well-being, to Austin in perpetuity. This guiding document also prioritizes equity in its recommendations by incorporating measures of social vulnerability as a component of community-level risk. Both environmental and social vulnerability will be used along with many other considerations to create work plans and prioritize their implementation.

### **All Districts**



*The Park Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI) Created Especially for PARD Natural Areas. The CVI Combines Environmental and Social Vulnerability to Estimate the Likelihood of a Negative Climate-driven Event Such as Widespread Canopy Mortality or Intense Wildfire as Well as Residents' Capacity to Prepare for and Recover from Such Events.*

**Project Connect Update:** Community engagement on the five Light Rail Alignment options ended May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Austin Transit Partnership (ATP) is reviewing staff recommendations and public input, factoring in partner coordination and the Community Advisory Committee. On June 6<sup>th</sup>, the Tri-Party (COA/CapMetro/ATP) will take action on a final alignment for the Initial Investment. Both Lady Bird Lake crossing options (Statesman / Waller Beach and South First Street / Auditorium shores) will move forward through 30% design, which means the Department will continue evaluating potential parkland impacts and replacement properties for both crossing options. **All Districts**  
<https://www.projectconnect.com/>

**Texas Legislature Parkland Dedication Bill HB 1526:** Two State bills have been proposed as part of the 88th legislative session that would dictate the City of Austin's parkland dedication requirements. Department staff worked with the City of Austin Intergovernmental Relations Office (IGRO) to

communicate the City's concerns regarding these two bills. Specifically, CSHB 1526 requires that cities must designate every area within the city as either suburban, urban or central business district and the appraisal district shall calculate the average land values for each district. Landowners may request a determination from the city of the required dedication amount and, if the city fails to respond within 30 days, the city may not require a parkland dedication or charge a fee-in-lieu of dedication. Changes made to CSHB 1526 narrows the applicability of the statutory parkland dedication regime to only multi-family and hotel-motel uses (Cities can still impose parkland dedication for single-family or two-family uses), creates an Affordable Housing Development Exception, consolidates acquisition and development fee, appears to preserve City's discretion for determining how parkland dedication can be satisfied, and instead of using the formula that accounts for existing parkland levels of service, parkland dedication would be determined and satisfied by the amount of the maximum fee that can be imposed under the bill. <https://www.austintexas.gov/PLD> **All Districts**

**Parkland Dedication Conversations:** In September 2022, Council approved an updated Parkland Dedication Ordinance ([20220915-053](#)) and directed PARD to conduct a stakeholder engagement process to explore and make recommendations on:

- New methodologies for calculating parkland dedication fees for both residential and commercial properties;
- Alternative timing for the City to collect any required fee-in-lieu;
- Potential exemptions for commercial development that produce less than one functional population;
- Revisiting parkland dedication requirements for mixed-use developments; and
- Consider any Planning Commission recommendations not already adopted by Council.

The stakeholder process took place between January 24<sup>th</sup> and March 14<sup>th</sup>. The Department and consultants gathered valuable feedback and are working on a draft report that is anticipated to be completed in June.

**All Districts**

## DEVELOPMENT UPDATES:

**Asian American Resource Center (AARC) Phase 2 Improvements:** On May 18<sup>th</sup>, the Department received Council authorization to negotiate and execute an amendment to the design services agreement with Trahan Architects. The Schematic Design phase for the Performing Arts Center and associated improvements as outlined in the 2019 Plan approved by City Council was completed this past November. The project team confirmed that the available funding will not be sufficient to cover the full cost of the Performing Arts Center and associated site improvements that are needed to support the rapidly growing community. The 2018 Bond funds were intended to cover the cost of a 9,500-square-foot facility. The design now consists of a 28,000-square-foot facility and many other outside factors have driven costs up exponentially since 2018. The project will now be split into two phases, 2A and 2B. Design of both phases will continue through Design Development, at which point the project will be divided into one portion to be constructed now (Phase 2A) and the other (Phase 2B) later. Once City Council authorizes the increase of the professional design services contract, the project team will continue to evaluate costs alongside construction logistics to attain the greatest value. The project design will be informed by pan-Asian culture and architecture and embrace the AARC's mission to support and connect diverse Asian American communities in Austin and beyond by creating a space of



belonging and healing. This Phase 2A project is funded through \$7M from the 2018 General Obligation (GO) Bond Program. <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/asian-american-resource-center-phase-2-improvements> **District 1**

**Givens and Colony Park Aquatic Facilities:** On May 10<sup>th</sup>, the Colony Park Aquatic Facility project received approval from the Development Services Department (DSD) for the Site Plan Permit. This significant milestone allows the construction of the project to begin. Completion of the proposed facility is planned for the 2024 pool season. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, the Department will request City Council to authorize an amendment to increase the contractual authority of Construction-Manager-at-Risk for Flintco, LLC, for both Colony Park and Givens pool projects from the original authority of \$14,000,000 to \$20,631,000. Plans for both facilities include a lap lane pool, zero-entry activity pool, water slide, spray ground feature, diving board, gender-neutral bathhouse, family restrooms, training/party room, deck space, and aquatic office space. <https://www.austintexas.gov/givenspool>  
<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/colony-park-aquatic-facility> **District 1**



*Rendering of Colony Park Aquatic Facility*

**Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center:** The Joint Venture Miró Rivera Architects + Tatiana Bilbao ESTUDIO (JV MRA+TBE) has completed the Construction Documents for the first package of construction work, which is site and infrastructure. On June 8, the project team will bring two agenda items to Council. The first is for City Council approval to authorize the negotiation and execution of an amendment to JV MRA+TBE's contract to cover additional design through post construction services. DSD is reviewing the revised site development plans to clear the remaining comments and issue the site permit. The second is to authorize an increase in the Construction Cost Limitation with Roger's O'Brien Construction. This increase is required prior to bidding and negotiation of a second package of construction documents, which includes building expansion, renovation, and landscaping. The increased authorization amount will be funded utilizing the additional Parkland Dedication Fees allocated toward the project this past December. Negotiation and execution of a contract with Roger's O'Brien Construction for the first package is in progress. Site construction is anticipated to begin in June 2023. Project completion is anticipated in 2025. Funding is available through the voter-approved 2018 General Obligation Bonds in the amount of \$27,000,000 and \$5,000,000 in Parkland Dedication Fees. <https://www.austintexas.gov/MaccPhase2> **District 9**

**Dougherty Arts Center Replacement Project:** On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Department will seek a recommendation from the Design Commission for the Dougherty Arts Center (DAC) Replacement project's compliance with the City's Urban Design and Sustainability Guidelines. This presentation serves as a follow-up to the previous Design Commission review in April 2022, in which additional information will be provided about the project's compliance with Subchapter E guidelines and the project budget. The DAC project is approaching completion of the 100% construction document milestone, which is anticipated in July, but moving forward into construction will be contingent on ongoing discussions regarding the project's funding deficit. <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/dougherty-arts-center-redevelopment-project> **District 9 (previously District 5)**

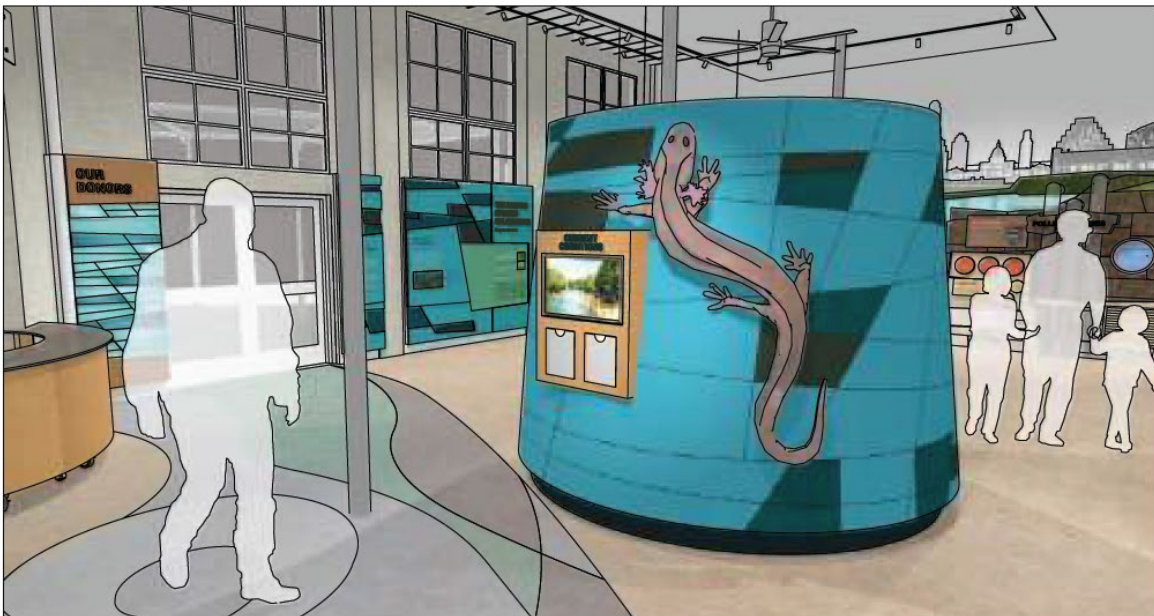


*Rendering of the proposed Dougherty Arts Center*

**Barton Springs Bathhouse Rehabilitation:** The Barton Springs Bathhouse Rehabilitation project is currently in the final permitting stages prior to advertising for bidding. The project has passed review by the Design Commission, Austin Historic Landmark Commission, and Texas Historical Commission, and the site plan is currently in the final stages of review. The building permit plans were submitted the week of April 10<sup>th</sup> for concurrent review with the site plan. Should building and site permits be obtained this month, a request for bids under the Council-approved Competitive Sealed Proposal project delivery method will be advertised in June. The process will take approximately 5-6 months to select, negotiate, and sign contracts with a general contractor. It is currently anticipated that a notice to proceed for construction will be issued in November, at the earliest, upon contract execution. Once started, construction is estimated to take approximately 14 months. Plans and preparations are progressing for temporary facilities for lifeguards, restrooms, and showers. These will be conveniently located next to the bathhouse and be accessible to swimmers throughout construction. Coordination with the Hillside Theater staff for activities during construction regarding traffic patterns, parking, loading, and access to the theater continues to ensure minimal disruption to their activities. The artist for the Art in Public Places component of the project has been selected and is working on the project. Their work will be



installed in the entry portion of the building near the completion of the project. The scope of this project includes structural, accessibility, and utility infrastructure improvements and an overhaul to the Splash! exhibit within the historical bathhouse at Barton Springs Pool. Delays in the project design have come from an expanded scope of work after community engagement indicated a wish to include the Splash! exhibit redesign, additional fundraising needed to meet the revised project cost estimate, coordination of permitting issues in a highly regulated and federally protected natural area, and pandemic-related delays. Project management is headed by the Public Works Department with the Parks and Recreation Department coordinating the Owner requirements. Funding for this rehabilitation project is provided through 2012 and 2018 GO Bond funds, the Historic Preservation Fund, and contributions from the Barton Springs Conservancy. Additional exhibit contributions are provided by the Watershed Protection Department and Austin Water. The Historic Preservation Fund is Hotel Occupancy Tax revenue for projects and initiatives that meet allowable uses as defined under Chapter 351 of the Texas Tax Code and is an essential tool for the promotion of tourism. Public parks, museums, and cultural centers are among the top tourist attractions in the City and the Department works in partnership with the Heritage Tourism Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department, which manages the Historic Preservation Fund. <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/barton-springs-bathhouse-rehabilitation> **District 8**



*“Swim with the Salamanders” context view presented to the Design Commission represents one possible idea for the Splash! Exhibit*

**Dottie Jordan Neighborhood Park – Recreation Center Restroom Renovation:** The Dottie Jordan Recreation Center offers activities for youth, teens, and senior citizens, including Therapeutic Recreation programs for teens and adults with disabilities. A renovation of the building’s restrooms has been completed. The project was initiated to correct issues with plumbing and update the facility to current Texas Accessibility Standard requirements. The renovation also included installing an adult-sized changing table within each restroom. The table with an electrical-powered height adjustability system

allows caretakers to have a sanitary space to change an adult or older child with special needs who requires assistance and extra support to fully attend to their personal hygiene needs. Using a changing table allows caregivers to provide toileting assistance at a more level position, rather than bending down and risking back strain or other injuries. The project included reconfiguration of both men's and women's restrooms to accommodate the tables, address wastewater drainage issues, and upgrade utility connections, fixtures, and flooring. The outside sidewalks were replaced to be accessible from the building to the bus stop, as well as the ADA parking area. **District 1**



*Adult changing table, renovated bathroom, and improved accessibility in the parking lot of the Dottie Jordan Recreation Center*

## MAINTENANCE UPDATES:

### Aquatic Maintenance:

The following information is intended to demonstrate the complexities of pool maintenance operations and provide information as to the seasonal preparation work and on-going maintenance required to sustain the system for seasonal access.

- **Pool preparation**
  - Dove Springs **District 2**
    - Baby pool – New filter installed
    - Lap pool – Return line break in stainless steel repaired
  - Rosewood Splash Pad **District 1**
    - New motor installed
    - New feature solenoids installed
  - Metz/Mendez Splash Pad **District 3**
    - New motor installed
  - Bartholomew Pool **District 4**
    - Lap pool motor failed and temporary pool motor installed
    - Old lap pool motor receiving servicing
    - Two spare motors ordered
    - Bartholomew pool lap pool heater gas leak repaired.
  - Ricky Guerrero Splash Pad **District 4**
    - Vandalism repairs made and opened for season

- Northwest Pool **District 7**
  - New diving board installed
- **Annual Spring Clean:**
  - Big Stacy pool was closed May 13-19, for spring clean and pool repairs. **District 9**
- **Barton Springs Pool:**
  - Will receive a dredging permit from Texas Parks and Wildlife mid-May. **District 5**
- **Deep Eddy Pool:**
  - Pump one is currently under repair. The three other pumps are being used to fill the pool. **District 10**

**Backstop Netting Installation at George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center:** The George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center completed installation of new backstop netting for their baseball fields on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The previous backstop netting on the fields was substantially worn and a potential safety hazard. The completion of this maintenance project will help the site facilitate safe league play for participants for years to come. **District 2**



*New Backstop Netting Above Home Plate*

**Light Installation at George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center:** The George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center began installation of lights on its recently renovated outdoor basketball court on April 26<sup>th</sup>. This addition will be a warm welcome for evening park visitors eager to participate in recreational activity. Completion of this project is projected for mid-May. **District 2**





*Outdoor Light Pole Installation  
(Left Sideline)*



*Wide View of Outdoor Court Lights*

**Mendez Recreation Center (Martin Middle School):** Renovation to multipurpose field behind Martin Middle School is underway. The current scope of the project includes the installation of a new irrigation system, followed by the installation of additional fencing surrounding the field, followed by renovation of the field to include aeration, aggregation, and laser grading of the softball/kickball field. The projected completion date is late June. **District 3**



*Current Construction of Irrigation Lines at Martin Multipurpose Fields*

**Netting Project Completion at Mendez Recreation Center – Martin Middle School:** The Community Recreation Division recently completed the netting project for the softball field at Martin Middle School. The new installed nets were installed above the fields backstop fencing. **District 3**



*Newly Installed Backstop Netting at Martin Middle School Softball Fields*

**Softball Field Netting at Pan Am Recreation Center:** The Pan Am Community Recreation Center recently completed the netting project for the softball field in Pan Am Neighborhood Park. The new nets were installed in the outfield parallel to East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. **District 3**



*Newly Installed Outfield Netting at Pan Am Neighborhood Park Softball Fields*

**Northwest Recreation Center Playground:** The new playground equipment has arrived and is currently being installed by the contractor. Estimated time for completion is early summer. **District 7**

**Lamar Senior Activity Center Multipurpose Floor:** The center experienced a leak in the ceiling of their multipurpose room. The wood flooring will have to be sanded and leveled to remove the warping the water caused. Staff are working with maintenance and a contractor to create a plan to repair the floor when closed in maintenance week. **District 9**

**Grey Rock Resurfacing Project:** Putting green resurfacing and teeing ground resurfacing work began at Grey Rock Golf Club on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Around May 28<sup>th</sup>, a full golf course closure will happen to begin work on the remaining holes. During the closure of the golf course, Grey Rock Tennis, practice facilities, game improvement programs, dining and social programs will continue. In the best interest of the project, the annual July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration will be cancelled due to staffing and cost concerns. Alternative programming has been provided in the form of discounted monthly dues and food credits. All other Golf ATX properties will be fully open and accessible during this closure and to date, Touchstone has had no members choose to freeze their memberships related to the closure. **District 8**

**Technology Update:** A new phone queue system has been introduced at Morris Williams Golf Course. The new phone queue is being used for weekend bookings. When customers phone in, the calls are placed in a queue and answered in the order received. This new process has enabled staff to quickly move through weekend bookings. A similar system will be rolling this out to Lions and Clay/Kizer Golf Courses in the near future. **Districts 1, 2 and 10**

**Oakwood Cemetery Chapel Monument Installation:** The installation of a granite monument at Oakwood Cemetery was completed on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The monument was designed to memorialize the 36 reinterred men, women and children that were found during archaeology project in 2017, at the time of rehabilitation of the Chapel. **District 1**



*View of the New Granite Monument Adjacent to  
the Oakwood Cemetery Chapel*



**South Austin Neighborhood Park – Parking & Exterior ADA Repairs:** South Austin Recreation Center, located at South Austin Neighborhood Park, serves as a polling place and cold weather shelter for City of Austin residents. Improvements are underway to provide compliant ADA parking stalls, walkways, a facility entrance, and accessible path from the nearby transit stop. Access from the parking lot to the existing playground will also be renovated to meet compliance. The project is funded by 2018 GO Bonds for ADA Improvements and utilizes the Department Asphalt Parking Lot/Roads Construction, Rehab and Repair IDIQ (Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity) Contract. **District 3**



*Construction is underway at the South Austin Recreation Center*

#### **Homeless Response**

- Number of 311 calls related to homelessness on parkland in April: **377**
- Number of fires reported from Austin Fire Department on parkland in April: **17**
- Number of TOOF (The Other One's Foundation) site visits for trash abatement in April: **14**
- Volume of trash collected by TOOF in April: **23,100 lbs**

#### **All Districts**

## PROGRAM UPDATES:

### District 1:

**Dottie Jordan Recreation Center Adaptive Field Day:** Over 150 adults with disabilities attended the April 28<sup>th</sup>, Dottie Jordan Recreation Center first adaptive field day. The event brought together current Department participants and new participants. Activities included archery tag, potato sack races, water relays, and more! It was also an opportunity for participants to try out the newly renovated accessible Dottie Jordan playground. Fun was had by participants, staff and volunteers!



*Adaptive Field Day Participants*



**Given Recreation Center Flag Football:** The Givens Recreation Center Flag Football Season is almost halfway completed. The program currently has four teams in the eight and under division, four teams in the ten and under division, and four teams in the ten and under division. The games are held weeknights on Tuesday at Givens recreation center and will run through the entirety of the month of May. The program is well attended by the community.

**Tournament Season Begins:** The first two Golf ATX hosted tournaments were held in March and April. The Spring Championship/Mid-Amateur kicked off the season and was held at Morris Williams golf course March 18-19. Spring Partnership, a two-person team event was held at Lions Municipal on April 22-23 and was won by the team of Kody King and Matt Fisher with scores of 63, 63 (126). Registration is currently open now for our next event, the Firecracker Open which will be held July 1-3 at Lions Golf Course.



*Kody King & Matt Fisher*

**All Together Here – Monument Dedication and Memorial Event:** The three-day event, scheduled for May 19-21, at Oakwood Cemetery Chapel included guided tours of the Historic Colored Grounds and the Oakwood Chapel, a talk by a historian, a racial healing event, a dedication of the monuments, a walking procession, and a homegoing celebration. Estimated attendance is 800.

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/d0b7ec88a46147ff835c3be602d72938/page/All-Together-Here-Home/>

**Conley Guerrero Senior Activity Center Older American's Month Kick-Off:** The Conley Guerrero Senior Activity Center Older American's Month Kick-Off event was held at the center on May 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Staff worked with Austin Public Health to host this indoor event. The celebration included the Blue Sherpas Band, vendors, bingo, exercise classes, booster shots, prizes, two dance teams, and Jim Spencer as MC. 200 participants were in attendance. **District 1**

**Conley Guerrero Senior Activity Center Senior with a Goal (SWAG):** The event will be held Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Staff are working with the Procurement/Financial Services Department for this event. The event will have free breakfast and lunch provided with speakers on cyber security and estate planning. Vendors include dental, senior living, transportation, continuing education, weatherization, smoke detector, and personal security. 100 people are expected to attend the event.



**Asian American Resource Center – Citizenship Clinic:** A citizenship clinic was held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, in collaboration with the City’s Equity Office, American Gateways, and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO). This event provided free assistance to community members interested in becoming naturalized U.S. citizens. Attorneys helped participants complete the N400 naturalization application, and a resource fair was held. Representatives from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services were present to conduct mock interviews to help attendees prepare for their citizenship interview. The clinic served 61 participants and included 68 volunteers and 24 community tables.



*Attendees Receiving Assistance from Volunteers in Completing Paperwork*

**The Carver Museum’s Create and Heal Series:** The event had a marvelous turnout on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, for the Art of Manifestation. From 6-8 p.m., participants spoke about personal experiences as they created unique vision boards representing their dreams and goals. Muffins and fruit, laughter and tears were shared. An R&B playlist filled the museum lobby, and healing was abundant. Create and Heal is a quarterly program at the Carver Museum that focuses on healthy ways to process the continued state-sanctioned violence against Black and Brown people in the United States. Through this program, the Carver partners with Austin-based artists and activists to lead activities and workshops that promote community healing. 17 people attended the event.



*Participant Displays Her Collage Made at the Carver's  
Create and Heal event*

**Land Management Program – Audi Wild:** In FY 22, the Department Land Management Program hired a local environmental educator to create innovative interpretive material to help people connect with Austin Nature Preserves in new ways. One project, called *Audio Wild*, will be a series of audio productions that Preserve visitors can access on-site via a QR code on an interpretive panel. The first Audio Wild project is at Red Bluff Nature Preserve. The Red Bluff Audio Wild experience connects the visitor with Pete Rivera as he tells the story of Red Bluff's history and cultural significance. Additional Audio Wild experiences are planned for other Nature Preserves. Listen to the Red Bluff Audio Wild here, or better yet, scan the QR code on-site and allow Pete Rivera to serve as your virtual hike guide.



*Pete Rivera Stands Next to the First Audio Wild Sign  
at Red Bluff Nature Preserve*

**CelebrASIA:** The Asian American Resource Center hosted its 10th annual CelebrASIA Austin event on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at 8401 Cameron Rd. The family-friendly festival is free and open to the public and celebrates Asian Pacific American (APA) Heritage Month. This indoor/outdoor event offers performances, food vendors, exhibits, and cultural experiences for the entire family. The 2023 festival commemorated 10 years of the AARC being rooted in community and culture!

## **District 2:**

**Community Service Park Project – George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center:** The George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center hosted a Community Service Park Project led by Austin Parks Foundation and Sam’s Club on April 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. 70 volunteers visited Dove Springs Park to spread mulch around the trees. An estimated 9,720 square feet of mulch was spread totaling 12,117 gallons of mulch distribution. This was a wonderful contribution towards the preservation of the park grounds.



*Volunteers Distribute Mulch Around  
Dove Springs Park Trees*



*Volunteers Eagerly Load Up Mulch to  
Prepare for Transport/Distribution*

**Cinco De Mayo Community Event:** The George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center hosted its second annual Cinco De Mayo free community event on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30 PM. The event hosted family friendly activities such as the 3-legged race, ring toss, hitting the pinata and many more. 500 tacos were given out courtesy of a generous donation by the George Morales Dove Springs Advisory Board. 200 people attended the event.





*Cinco De Mayo Event Flyer*

**Youth Wood Crafting Program:** The George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center concluded its first ever youth wood crafting program on April 19<sup>th</sup>. The six participants who enrolled in the “Tiny Wood Masters” program was exposed to safe tool and wood carpentry practices and engaged in making their own personal wooden table over the course of the program.



*Participants Eagerly Engage in Their Wood Craft Activities*



*Participants and Staff Proudly Pose with Their Completed Table Project*

**Dove Sports Frenzy:** The George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center began the start of its new youth “Dove Sports Frenzy” program on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. The 8-week program features beginner-intermediate level instruction lessons for participants ages 5-10 that focuses on a variety of sport activities. These activities include basketball, soccer, flag football and volleyball. Program days are Tuesdays from 6-7 p.m. 15 participants are registered for this program.



*Participants Engage in Soccer Activities*

**Woodland Health Restoration:** Land Management Program staff have been leading and conducting woodland health restoration treatments at the Onion Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. Restoration strategies involve invasive species control, selective thinning, and prescribed burning. In total, 103 acres of restoration treatment will have been conducted by the end of FY23. With additional staffing, this type of work will be scaled up across the natural areas in the Department land management plan.





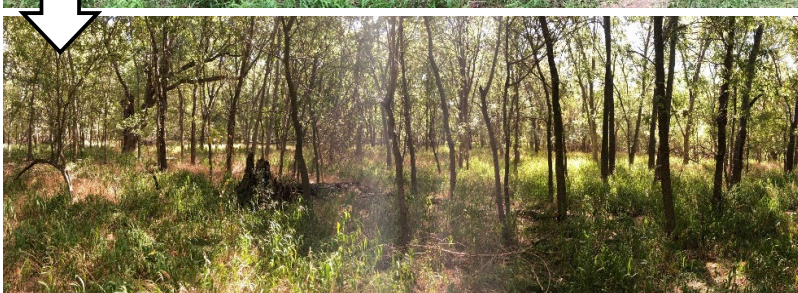
Unmanaged woodlands become dense and vulnerable to canopy mortality and wildfire.



Restoration includes selectively thinning small diameter brush and trees with chainsaws.



Piles are burned by PARD fire management staff and agency cooperators.



Woodland structure is open; resilience, diversity, and safety are improved.

*Figure. The steps of a selective thinning treatment for woodland health. Reducing the density of overstocked woodlands increases resource availability for remaining trees, boosts species diversity, restores resilience to heat, drought, disease, and wildfire, and improves perceptions of safety for park users by improving sight lines and visibility.*

### **District 3:**

**City Olympics:** The annual City Olympics event returned to full swing for 2023. The Community Recreation Division & Centralized Programs collaborated with the Human Resources Department's Healthy Connections Team to host over 1,000 City of Austin employees and their families during the event. The Centralized Program Division lead the Kid's Zone, Kickball, Softball, Sand Volleyball, Horseshoes, Washers, Brisket Cook-off, and the Salsa Contest. The Department claimed 1<sup>st</sup> place in the kickball tournament for the second consecutive year (team Kickaholics)!





*Softball*



*Coed Dodgeball Winners  
Parks and Recreation Department*

The Centralized Programs Division offered a Kid Zone during City Olympics. Families participated in a variety of games such as soccer, jenga, carnival games and disc golf. Kids also enjoyed the bounce house, imagination playground blocks, face painting and staff led interactive games in which participants won prizes! The Kid Zone was enjoyed by all! 50 children attended the event.



*City Employee Children Playing Games at City Olympics*

**Cinco De Mayo Event at Mendez Recreation Center:** Mendez Recreation Center recently hosted its Cinco De Mayo event on Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m. Over 250 participants were in attendance for the event held in Metz Park that included free food, Bingo games and prizes for the east Austin community event. Local vendors and supporting agencies were also in attendance to include the Park Rangers and Sender Healthcare.



*Mendez Recreation Center's Cinco De Mayo Event*

**Varsity Generation Program at Mendez Recreation Center:** Mendez Recreation Center's Varsity Generation Program recently hosted its Cinco De Mayo program activities for program participants during their weekly program on Thursday May 4<sup>th</sup> food, crafts, and BINGO was put on for the programs twelve varsity generations participants in attendance. The program currently has over 30 participants registered who attend the weekly program.



*Mendez Recreation Center Varsity Generation Participants Showing Off Their Smiles at Their Recent Cinco De Mayo program event.*



**Flavors of the World:** The Montopolis Recreation and Community Center Partnered completed “Flavors of the World.” Flavors of the world gave teens the opportunity to learn to cook food from the USA, Mexico, Italy, Tibet, Japan, and Ethiopia. The program was six sessions with 10 registered participants.



*Teen Cooking on the Stove*

**Arts in Cahoots:** The Montopolis Recreation and Community Center partnered with the Dougherty Arts Center to offer “Arts in Cahoots.” Art in Cahoots activities were free, led by an Austin Artist, and designed specifically for children 2½-5 years of age working cooperatively with an accompanying adult caregiver. This was a great way to collaborate creatively with their child and connect with their community through the arts! Art in Cahoots was hosted on Friday April 28<sup>th</sup>. The program maxed out at 12 participants.



*Toddler Sisters Creating Art*



**District 4:**

**Teens in Leadership Training (TILT) Graduation:** 17 teens representing five different high schools in the Austin area completed the requirements for the program and attended a graduation ceremony on Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. The program was hosted at Virginia L. Brown Recreation Center this past spring, and consisted of lessons on leadership, mentoring, communication, team building, how to work with children, and valuable job readiness skills. During one of their sessions, each student was able to purchase business dress attire from Marshall's or Old Navy for their interviews. For their last requirement, each student was asked to prepare a Growth Project and present it at Graduation. It was a great evening where they were publicly recognized for their accomplishments by their parents, staff, family, and friends. The TILT graduates are now eligible to apply for Jr. Activity Specialist positions with the Summer Playgrounds Program where the staff will continue working with them on their career development.



*Teens in Leadership Training Graduates*

**Gus Garcia Recreation Center (GGRC) Youth Spring Soccer:** GGRC's Spring Soccer League has reached its halfway point. Gus Garcia has a total of 124 players on 11 teams in four age divisions. Games will conclude May 20<sup>th</sup> assuming no rain-out game is needed.

**Virginia L. Brown Recreation (VLB) Center Spring Youth Soccer:** Spring Soccer is four weeks into the league and VLB's teams have played in two games each! Games are scheduled to run through May 20<sup>th</sup>. VLB has a total of 60 players on six teams in 5 age divisions.



*Virginia L Brown RC 6U Team Playing Against Virginial L. Brown Recreation Center Last Week at Gus Garcia Recreation Center*

**Virginia L Brown Recreation Center Teen Club (TCTA):** Virginia L. Brown Recreation Center hosts free Art Classes to teens in grades 7-12 on Tuesdays and Thursdays through the end of April. Totally Cook Totally Art (TCTA) is unique in that the classes are completely free to Austin's youth teen community. Teens will learn various techniques by working directly alongside professional artists. The program reinforces positive choices by offering art appreciation in a mentoring environment. TCTA is built to help give teens new experiences, build respect and trust, keep them out of trouble during high-risk after school hours and improve their skills in creative expression, communication, teamwork, and arts appreciation. On average, there are between 10-30 teens who attend this drop-in program.



*TCTA Teen Participants During the Last Film Session*

**Virginia L. Brown Recreation Teen Cooking Challenge:** The cooking program is scheduled for May 11-25, and meet every Thursday for two hours. This will be a three-week program that will consist of teens creating three different dishes (dessert, appetizer and main course with different ingredients). Teens will be given different ingredients each week and must produce a dish from the items provided.



*Virginia L. Brown After School Participants Enjoying a Fun Cooking Craft*

**Virginia L. Brown Recreation Center Color Run:** The event took place April 27<sup>th</sup>. 36 Participants 5-12 years of age participated in the annual Color Run event at the Virginia L. Brown Recreation Center to celebrate the end of the running club. At the end of the session, the participants enjoyed pizza, fun prizes, and popsicles.



*Virginia L. Brown Color Run Participants After the Big event!*

**Virginia L. Brown Recreation Center Varsity Generation Mother's Day Luncheon:** The luncheon was on May 10<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the mother figures in our lives. St. John Community's very own Grandma Wisdom was a guest speaker and shared her poems about mothers. 15 people attended the event.

**Virginia L. Brown Recreation Center Varsity Generation:** Are you looking for fun daily activities with new friends? Come to the Virginia L. Brown Recreation Center for fun activities like Arts & Crafts Projects, Educational and Health Seminars, Bingo, Fitness Classes, Gardening, and more! The program is a year-round program held Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and is designed for ages 50+.



### **District 7:**

**Teen Explorers Program:** Northwest Recreation Center is currently implementing a new out of school time program called Teen Explorers. During this program, participants explore Austin’s greenways and trails by hiking a different trail each week with Northwest Recreation Center staff. The program runs from April 22<sup>nd</sup> through May 27<sup>th</sup>. There are currently two participants and registration will remain open throughout the program.

**Brush Square Museums Wells Branch Homestead Pioneer Festival:** On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Department’s Brush Square Museums staff and guests visited the Wells Branch Pioneer Festival. Staff from the Susanna Dickinson shared pioneer toys including “Game of Graces,” Tabletop Nine Pins, Corn Husk Dolls, and Paper Dolls. Children were able to decorate and stuff their own bears as a keepsake. What a fun way to learn Texas history! 226 people were in attendance.



*Susanna Dickinson Staff in Period Costume Welcomes Guests to the Activity Table*

### **District 8:**

**Educational Field Trips – Austin Nature & Science Center:** An astonishing 4,538 students from Austin Independent School District visited the Austin Nature & Science Center in April for hands-on educational field trips. The Austin Nature & Science Center closed out their instructor led programs for the FY2023 school year in April. The Nature’s Way preschool also wrapped up the school year for 80 children between the ages of 3 and 6 years old. More than 70 families joined Nature’s Way Preschool’s end of the year tradition, a picnic in Zilker Park where the students and teachers say goodbye to the school year and hello to summer fun. In addition to the many program participants, the Austin Nature &

Science Center also welcomed 3,047 drop-in visitors to discover the Dino Pit, explore the Naturalist Workshop, splash in the stream, and visit the wildlife exhibits.

**Native Bees of Texas Course:** The Austin Nature & Science Center hosted the Native Bees of Texas course on May 7<sup>th</sup>. The program, in partnership with the Jha Lab at the University of Texas provided 20 people with an education in bees that allows them to effectively survey pollinators like a biologist on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Barton Spring Pool Operations:** Barton Springs pool operates from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, except for Thursdays when the pool closes between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. for cleaning. Lifeguards are present between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. daily. During the Summer, a full shift can see 18-20 lifeguards on site at one time to open all stands. This works out to 30-40 staff working at Barton Springs during the Winter and more than 100 during the summer.

Improvements to the payment systems at Barton Springs Pool have been hampered by a lack of stable and effective internet access in Zilker Park; however, the Department is committed to resolution. Credit cards are accepted via the onsite kiosks and through the ATXSwim app. Cash registers have also returned to provide for cash payment at the payment window. The pool utilizes armored car services to pick up deposits. Security guards are on site to escort guards to their cars after the pool closes. Parking continues to be a challenge for visitors to Barton Springs Pool and Zilker Park.

#### **District 9:**

**Spring Youth Soccer:** Spring Youth Soccer at Hancock Recreation Center is four weeks into the league and Hancock's teams have played in two games each. Games are scheduled to run through May 20<sup>th</sup>. Hancock has a total of 88 players on six teams in four age divisions.



*Hancock's 12U Team Playing Against Virginial L. Brown Recreation Center  
Last Week at Gus Garcia Recreation Center*

**Tweens Night Out – Good Game Well Played:** Pre-teens, 11-13 years of age, dropped by Hancock Recreation Center on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 p.m. for an evening of games and fun. Pre-teens were introduced to Virtual Reality gaming at Hancock. *Good Game Well Played* is a futuristic way of gaming. Let's have some fun!! There were six participants.



*Preteens Practicing How to use GG Well Played Games*

**Chop It Like It's Hot Cooking Club:** 13 youth participants completed Hancock Recreation Center's After School Program Cooking Club. Participants met four times for two hours each session making Spinach Pasta Dough, Mini Cannoli Cups, Chicken Shawarma Kabobs, Mediterranean Chopped Salad, Korean Beef Bulgogi, Korean Cucumber Salad, and Yummy Fruit Smoothies.



*Left: Prepping food for Korean Day / Center: Rolling out Spinach Dough / Right: Cutting Fruit for Smoothies*

**Hancock Recreation Center It's Game Time – Adult Soccer Edition:** Hancock Recreation Center is following up last year's Adult Basketball Challenge. This time, with Soccer Challenges! People 18 years of age or older and want to play some quick, fun, and free Soccer Challenges before scrimmaging with friends. Participants are invited to join Hancock Recreation Center at the soccer field on Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. to compete against others for prizes. Registration is open until May 26<sup>th</sup>. 15 people have registered to date.





*Last Year's It's Game Time Basketball Participants*

**Dougherty Arts Center's (DAC) 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Art-O-Rama:** On Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, the Dougherty Arts Center held its surreal themed 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Art-O-Rama community engagement event. Attendees interacted with and participated in immersive art installations, including a light installation created by local artist Jamal Hussain specially for this event. There were several hands-on art activities for attendees, including a large community collage wall in the DAC gallery. There were live performances by local artist Mystica Fiora, Polly Mermaid, Will Schutze, Jaime Ospina, and Devin Alfather. Whimsical treats and swag were available to attendees. Over 500 people attended the event. Additional information about the event can be found at the Dougherty Art Center's Art-O-Rama webpage: <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/art-o-rama>

**Cap Tex Tri, Vic Mathias Shores:** Annual special event on Lady Bird Lake and the shores scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 2500 participants and spectators anticipated. [CapTex Tri](#)

**Moonlight Margarita Run, Sand Beach Park:** Annual special event scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup>. The event attracts about 2500 runners. [Moonlight Margarita Run](#)

**O. Henry Museum Pun Off World Championships:** On May 13<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Brush Square Museums, in collaboration with the Brush Square Museums Foundation, presents the 46th Annual O. Henry Museum Pun-Off World Championships, an internationally renowned spoken word competition focused on the art of the pun. Usually held behind the O. Henry Museum, this year it was hosted at the Hilton Austin, 500 E. 4th St., while Brush Square is under renovation. For details visit [www.punoff.com](http://www.punoff.com).

### **Multiple Districts**

**State High School Golf Tournament:** Jimmy Clay Golf Course and Lions Golf Course is the host sites for the 3A and 2A UIL State High School Golf Tournaments May 15-16 and May 22-23. 144 competitors will play at each site over a two-week period battling for both team and individual competitions. The Golf Division has a long and storied history of hosting the State High School tournament crowning future professional golfers Stacy Lewis and Jordan Speith. GOLF ATX sites are selected based on professional expertise and the quality of facilities. **Districts 2 and 10**

### Nature Based Programs:

- **Camacho Activity Center:** In April, the Camacho Activity Center began wrapping up FY2023 school year programs and preparing for summer camp. Despite a few April showers causing rainouts, Camacho still served 389 participants. 30 students with special needs attended the Nature Immersion program's at Blazier and Martin Elementary Schools in the month of April. Camacho's three youth biking programs for children between the ages of four and 10, helped 43 participants learn to ride or improve their biking skills. **District 3**
  - 70 participants enrolled in the Friday Family Kayaking events at Camacho.
  - 113 senior citizens joined the hiking and kayaking programs for older adults.
  - 12 individuals with spinal injuries participated in a partnership program with Lone Star paralysis for a day of fun
  - 150 people participated in a Fun4All event hosted in partnership with the Texas Parks and Wildlife at Inks Lake State Park May 6<sup>th</sup>
  - 40 children participated in a partnership program with Sanchez Elementary School to enjoy two field days participating in kayaking, archery, and play a rousing game of kickball
- **The Dirt Divas program:** The Dirt Divas Program took 21 girls, ages seven to 11, on adventures around Austin, including biking the trails at Butler Park, rock climbing on the greenbelt, trying their hand at archery, and using their senses to explore nature. **District 9**
- **Interscholastic Cycling Association Competition:** On April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 28 participants traveled to Warda, Texas to compete in the last National Interscholastic Cycling Association Competition and have their final overnight camp out of the season. **District 3 and District 9**
- **Girls Outside Field Day:** May 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 125 girls participated in the Girls Outside Field Days on where they enjoyed slacklining, archery, and kayaking. **District 3 and 9**

**Zilker Shuttle:** The popular Zilker Shuttle service returns this summer. The free shuttle service goes to Zilker Metropolitan Park from the One Texas Center parking garage Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup> through Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. The Zilker Shuttle runs every Saturday and Sunday, and during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Labor Day holidays from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Park in the One Texas Center parking garage, 505 Barton Springs Rd. Parking ticket must be validated by the shuttle driver. The drop-off location is at Zilker Playground/Barton Springs Spillway a two-minute walk to Barton Springs Pool. No dogs or other pets will be allowed on the shuttle.. For more information, visit <https://www.austintexas.gov/news/free-zilker-shuttle-back-summer> **District 5 & 8**



**Waterloo Greenway, Confluence:** The 13-acre project, which includes over 7 blocks of creek reconstruction, more than 1,550 new trees and 200,000 mature plants, trails, and pedestrian bridges in the heart of downtown Austin, officially began construction May 1<sup>st</sup>. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Speakers included Mayor Kirk Watson, U.S. Army Corp Major Joshua M. Haynes, Waterloo Greenway CEO Jesús Aguirre, Assistant City Manager Veronica Briseño, Lynne Dobson of the Tejemos Foundation, and Congressman Lloyd Doggett, who was instrumental in bringing federal dollars to the project via the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers' Environmental Infrastructure program. Attendees were encouraged to share their "Wishes for Waterloo" on sheets of recycled paper incorporated with native wildflower seeds. The pages will later be planted on the project, which is expected to be complete at the end of 2025. **Districts 1 and 9**

<https://waterloogreenway.org/future/>



*Wishes for Waterloo at the May 3 Groundbreaking event, Photo credit: Suzanne Cordeiro*

#### **All Districts:**

**Lifeguard and Summer Camp Staff Hiring:** Marketing, communications, and outreach will continue through the beginning of June using the \$100k of additional promotional funding. Promotions will continue to focus heavily on \$20+/hour starting wage, up to \$750 Bonus, and \$400 Lifeguard Training Stipend. Additional perks include free bus pass, paid time off, free uniforms, and flexible schedules. [AustinTexas.gov/SummerJobs](https://AustinTexas.gov/SummerJobs)

**Pool openings:** Mabel Davis Pool will open for weekends starting on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Pools open for Memorial Day Holiday will be the five year-round pools: Springwoods, Bartholomew, Stacy, Barton Springs and Deep Eddy in addition to Northwest, Garrison and Walnut Creek Pools. **Districts 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10**

- Balcones, Rosewood, Dick Nichols, Dove Springs Pools are scheduled to open on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Districts 1, 2, 7 and 8**



- Dittmar, Govalle, Martin, Montopolis, Murchison, Ramsey, Reed, Shipe, Westenfield, Brentwood, Canyon Vista, Patterson, Dottie Jordan Pools scheduled to open on June 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Civitan, Metz, Kennemer, Parque Zaragoza, Little Stacy Wading and West Austin are scheduled to open on June 12<sup>th</sup>. **Districts 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9 and 10**
- Gillis and Givens Pools are not able to be opened this season. **Districts 1 and 3**
  - Givens Pool – Currently being renovated thanks to the 2018 Bond package. Reopening date is still to be determined.
  - Gillis Pool – Gillis Pool was vandalized and both recirculation and electrical systems must be rebuilt. Lead and asbestos abatement is scheduled to occur in June.

#### Homeless Response:

- Number of 311 calls related to homelessness on parkland in April: **377**
- Number of fires reported from Austin Fire Department on parkland in April: **17**
- Number of TOOF (The Other One's Foundation) site visits for trash abatement in April: **14**
- Volume of trash collected by TOOF in April: **23,100 lbs.**

**Prescribed fire licenses and qualifications:** The Department and its agency cooperators follow robust federal, state, and city standards for prescribed burning. These standards provide a framework for training and operations as well as establish the legal requirements for burning. In the last year, several Department staff have either begun work toward or completed advanced wildland fire certifications or licenses. The Land Management Program Manager, Matt McCaw, recently obtained the Texas [Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Manager](#) license. Completion of these types of certifications builds knowledge and skills such as operational leadership, technical proficiency, clear communication and delegation, conflict management, high reliability organizing, media relations, risk management, and long-term planning.



*In April, Land Managers and Firefighters from Seven Local Cooperating Agencies Completed the [Annual Wildland Fire Refresher](#) Training Required to Maintain Federal Wildland Fire Qualifications. Nine Department Staff Attended. Two PARD Land Management Program Staff Assisted with Instruction.*

**Historic Preservation and Tourism Program Updates:** The Historic Preservation and Tourism Program supports the preservation, restoration, and promotion of historic Austin parks through capital investment and inclusive marketing of historic sites and events to tourists. The Department teamed up with Texas Monthly to promote historic Austin parks for a fun digital promotion. On May 8<sup>th</sup>, Texas

Monthly began featuring an interactive map highlighting 15 of Austin's historic parks. Visitors are encouraged to click on the yellow flowers to learn more about each destination. The promotion will run for 30 days on the Texas Monthly website with native ads, Facebook posts, and social media driving traffic to the link. <https://www.texasmonthly.com/city-of-austin-historic-parks/>



*Screenshot of the interactive map featured on the Texas Monthly website until June 7*

## ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:

**Recreation Management System:** The Department, 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, the Department 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, the Department began working with a CTM project manager to establish timeline and deliverables for the solicitation scope of work. The Department anticipates the solicitation

process will take over a year to complete. The Department will continue to utilize RecTrac services throughout the solicitation process until a recommended vendor is established.

**Watercraft Concession at 2418 Stratford Drive:** A Scope of Work (SOW) was developed and presented at the September Parks Board Contracts and Concessions Committee meeting. The solicitation was published on November 9, 2022, and closed January 3, 2023, with four proposals submitted. On March 13, 2023, a recommendation for award to Texas Canoes and Kayaks was posted. The recommendation for the award to the selected vendor was under protest. On May 5th, 2023, Central Procurement cancelled the solicitation on behalf of the City. The contract with the current vendor, Rowing Dock, was extended through October 31, 2023.

**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 Parks Board Contracts and Concessions Committee was briefed at the October 21, 2022, meeting on the solicitation. The solicitation is pending release by Central Procurement. A contract with the successful proposer is anticipated to be executed by the August 2023 renovation completion.

**Interlocal Agreement between City of Austin and Austin Community College:** This agreement is an interlocal agreement that allows the Austin Community College (ACC) 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. The Interlocal Agreement was approved by Council on March 9, 2023, and is pending approval by ACC on June 6, 2023, for execution. Turner Roberts Recreation Center will begin hosting classes beginning May 30<sup>th</sup> while pending the contract execution.

**Zilker Café:** The agreement with the previous vendor has been terminated. A new solicitation is being developed to operate and maintain the food and beverage concession on the north side of Barton Springs Pool in Zilker Park. The solicitation is anticipated to be released in May 2023.

**Swim ATX:** This agreement is an interlocal agreement with the Austin Independent School District (AISD) for SwimATX, a year-long swim lesson program that includes the 36-hour lifeguard certification course, which will be provided to the students of select AISD high schools.

**FY 2024 Budget Development:** The Department has submitted its FY 2024 Financial Forecast, and preparation of the Proposed Budget is underway. Below are the City of Austin Budget Calendar key dates:

CALENDAR		
March 10	Revenue/Expenditure Forecast due from Depts.	<i>Completed</i>
April 14	<i>Council Briefing: Forecast Presentation</i>	<i>Completed</i>
May 5	5-year CIP Plan due from Depts.	<i>Completed</i>
May 5	Proposed Budget due from Depts.	<i>Completed</i>
July 14	Proposed Budget Presentation to Council	
July 26 – August 10	Council Budget Work Sessions	
August 16 - 18	Tax Rate Hearing and Budget Readings	



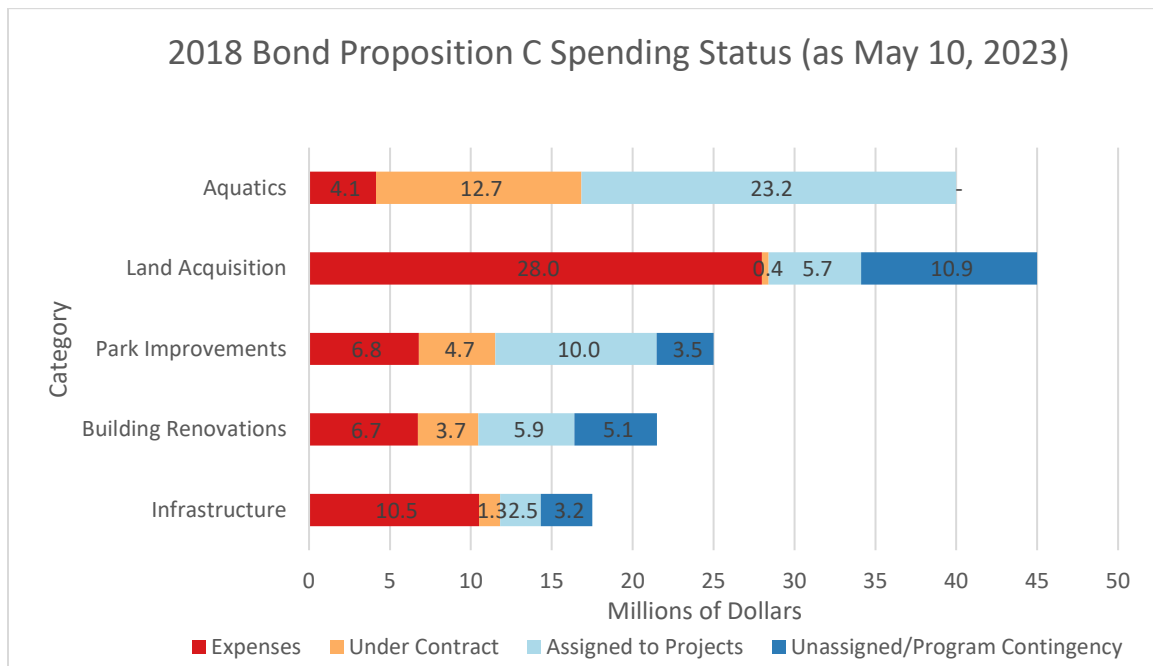
**PARD's Operating Budget Status as of April 30, 2023:** Of the \$119 million General Fund budget, 49.5 percent or \$58.9M has been obligated as of the end of April as compared to \$52.8M spent in the same period of the prior fiscal year. \$6.6M of the \$14.1M budgeted General Fund revenue has been collected as of the end of April.

Golf revenue equaling \$6.8M has been collected as of the end of April, which is up compared to the \$5.8M revenue collected by April 2022. Of the \$9.2 million Golf expenditure budget, 58 percent or \$5.4M has been obligated. This is \$843K higher in spending as of April of the prior fiscal year.

**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 \$56.2 million of the \$149 million authorized and has a further \$22.9 million under contract. Recent highlights in the program include:

- **Parkland Acquisitions**
  - The Department acquired 5.42 acres along Country Club Creek that will function as a neighborhood park, trailhead, and trail connection. [The property](#) will provide right-of-way access to the Greenbelt from Douglas and Benjamin Streets. **District 3**
  - The Department acquired [a property](#) on 304 Cedarbrook Ct to allow for the construction of Northern Walnut Creek Hike and Bike Trail Phase 2B. The property is located wholly in the floodplain. The installation of trail facilities would further adversely impact the property, necessitating the acquisition to mitigate those impacts. **District 7**
  - City Council approved the purchase of a 3.24 acre [property](#) at 901 Ruby Drive. The acquisition will function as a neighborhood park, providing park service to an estimated 2,500 residents currently in a park-deficient area. **District 1**
- **Completed Projects**
  - The Department opened the renovated playground at [Dottie Jordan Neighborhood Park](#) in April. The playground provides new inclusive, accessible equipment and surfacing to serve the community and align with the Rec Center's therapeutic programs. **District 1**
  - The Department's contractor completed asphalt repairs and resurfacing of the entry drive and parking lot at Mary Moore Searight Metro Park in March. **District 5**
- **Construction Starts**
  - City Council authorized negotiation and execution of the construction contract for [Duncan Neighborhood Park](#) on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Department issued a notice to proceed to the contractor for late May. **District 9**
  - The [Colony Park](#) Pool project received its site development permit and the Department will issue a notice to proceed to the contractor this month. **District 1**
  - The [Givens](#) Pool project is expected to receive its permit soon and a notice to proceed to the contractor will follow shortly thereafter. **District 1**
  - Playgrounds replacements at McBeth Recreation Center (**District 8**) and Northwest Recreation Center (**District 7**) began construction. Alamo Pocket Park (**District 1**) will also begin construction on a replacement project soon.

- Anticipated Completion
  - The [Brush Square Rehabilitation Phase I](#) is expected to be complete within the next month. **District 9**
  - The [Givens District Park Vision Plan Phase I Implementation](#) is expected to be complete in June 2023. **District 1**
- Projects in Design
  - The Department has entered the design development phase for the [Montopolis](#) (**District 3**) and [Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest](#) (**District 7**) Pool renovation projects. Renderings of the preferred concepts developed through community engagement are available on the project websites.
  - [Oertli Neighborhood Park](#) continues to work through the permitting process. Assuming permit release, construction is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2023. **District 1**
  - Permit drawings are in progress for an initial phase of development of [Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt](#) **District 1**
  - Following its approval by the Neighborhood Partnering Program Board, the Department is contributing to the design and development of improvements described in the community-initiated [Donde Corre El Agua](#) Plan along East Williamson Creek Greenbelt. **District 2**



Due to heavy construction cost escalation pressure, the Department continues to hold balances in the 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.