

From: "Kallivoka, Liana [PARD]" <Liana.Kallivoka@austintexas.gov>
Subject: Re: Questions about Parking in Zilker Park
Date: June 11, 2023 at 10:14:51 AM CDT
To: "Reed, Holly - BC" <BC-Holly.Reed@austintexas.gov>
Cc: "Montes, Gregory" <Gregory.Montes@austintexas.gov>, "Lyons, Kanya" <Kanya.Lyons@austintexas.gov>, "Nixon, John" <John.Nixon@austintexas.gov>, "Dombeck, Tim" <Tim.Dombeck@austintexas.gov>, "McNeeley, Kimberly" <Kimberly.McNeeley@austintexas.gov>, "Soliz, Ricardo" <Ricardo.Soliz@austintexas.gov>, "Maurer, Jason" <Jason.Maurer@austintexas.gov>, "Vaclavik, Charles" <Charles.Vaclavik@austintexas.gov>

Greetings Board Member Reed,

Thank you for reaching out.

Please see responses below in [blue](#) to the questions regarding parking at Polo Field and the Butler Landfill at Zilker Park. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Regards,
Liana

Liana Kallivoka, PhD, PE, LEED Fellow
Assistant Director | Austin Parks and Recreation Department

My work hours may look different than yours.
Please do not feel obligated to respond outside your normal work hours.

From: Reed, Holly - BC <BC-Holly.Reed@austintexas.gov>^[SEP]**Date:** Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 1:29 PM^[SEP]**To:** Lyons, Kanya <Kanya.Lyons@austintexas.gov>^[SEP]**Subject:** Questions about Parking in Zilker Park

Hello Ms. Lyons,

I have a couple of questions for you. I am trying to understand some of the realistic current and near-future uses and conditions of the Zilker Park Polo Field Lot and the Butler Landfill Gravel Lot.

(1) Does PARD have a date in mind yet for when the Polo Fields will be 100% closed for overflow parking?

Because, I see that the Zilker Park Working Group (in their final report, June 2019) recommended a timeline for closing the Polo Field as an overflow parking area by May 1, 2022.

[• Years 4 (2022): Close Polo Fields overflow parking area by May 1, 2022 after securing an equivalent number of viable, preferably offsite parking alternatives to the reduced parking that will accommodate the displaced parking and that are similar to the displaced parking in affordability, convenience, and usability. ZPWG Final Report June 2019, page 13.]

I know that we had a pandemic in between. I can see that we're not quite there yet. But I've heard that a further reduction in the number of cars in that lot is scheduled for later this summer.

Can you provide me details of the date of the next scheduled percentage reduction, how much it will be reduced, and when the 100% closure for car parking "as an overflow lot" is anticipated?

[1]
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Please be assured that the Department recognizes the need to remove parking from Polo Field. As a first step, last year the use of the Polo Field by park visitors was reduced to only Sat, Sun and holidays during peak demand in the spring and summer (March through Labor Day) when thousands of visitors are at the park.

[1]
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This year, the Department reduced the available parking area to only half of the field. As we continue to gather data and offer opportunities for offsite parking and the use of the shuttle, we will continue reducing the parking area.

At the end of the summer we plan to evaluate the conditions and discuss further reductions, if possible, to 25% or 30% of the area.

SEP

In addition to public parking, the Polo Field is used for parking during events. The Zilker Summer Musical, Zilker Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony, Kite Festival, Blues on the Green, and Trail of Lights all use the Polo Field for overflow parking.

SEP

Please know that the Department has to consider the budget and operational impacts to all these events when the Polo Field closes. Some will likely be unable to continue or afford shuttles and we should expect that without viable alternatives, a reduction will have a negative impact on the community accessibility. As per the workgroup's recommendation, the gradual closure should take place after securing an equivalent number of viable alternatives.

SEP

SEP

The current DRAFT Vision Plan states that the closure of the Polo Field parking would be a near term item. This recommendation can be found in the draft plan on page 205. The DRAFT Plan also states on page 206 that the closure of the landfill parking should be completed as a mid-term item.

According to the vision plan, careful calibration of alternative ways to arrive at Zilker will be needed as existing surface and temporary parking spaces are removed. Surface parking should be removed to align with the plan when the following conditions are present: a. internal shuttle and external shuttle systems are running, b. shared use parking is viable through third-party software platforms, c. alternative parking spaces are constructed as projects are realized.

SEP

Overall, we are making progress toward reducing the parking at Polo Field, but at the same time, we need to ensure that parking alternatives (shuttle, public transportation, remote parking, etc.) are available and convenient to use.

SEP

(2) What is the status of the Butler Landfill Gravel Lot? Does the City of Austin regard it to be in a stable condition, not requiring

either reseeding or added gravel to continue as a staging area for extra-large events in Zilker Park? Has it sufficiently satisfied its various code requirements to continue as a parking lot for recreational visitors in Zilker Park in the near-term? In other words, is it on a schedule for reseeding/irrigation or can we expect it to be available for both car parking and strategic staging for trailers for a few more years?

[L]
[SEP]

The Butler Landfill now consists of a 5-acre gravel area and a 3-acre revegetated area. The information below is for the gravel area.

Per the approved Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) maintenance plans, the maintenance improvements at the gravel portion of the Butler Landfill were completed in mid-January 2023. The maintenance performed at the gravel lot has met state codes and complies with COA standards. The completion of the maintenance work on the gravel lot allows the use of the lot for parking and event staging for the near-term and for several years.

[L]
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The 3-acre revegetated area has been seeded and irrigation utilizing lake water was installed earlier this year.

[L]
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The vision plan, when approved by Council, will provide guidance on the future use of the Butler Landfill.

I would appreciate any information you have on parking in these areas.

Thank you,

Holly Reed
Parks and Recreation Board

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