

## PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**DATE:** July 2023

---

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS:

**Violet Crown Trail North:** On July 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m., the Transportation and Public Works Department (TPW) will lead a ribbon cutting for the opening of a new 1-mile section of the 30-mile, planned Violet Crown Trail. This section begins in Sunset Valley at Home Depot Blvd., passes into City of Austin parkland, and connects to sidewalks along the northbound frontage road of Mopac to take trail users to William Cannon Rd. This project was led by TPW in partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department (Department), Sunset Valley, and Hill Country Conservancy who will maintain the trail once opened. **District 8**

<https://www.austintexas.gov/event/violet-crown-trail-north-community-celebration>



*Map showing the new 1-mile section of the Violet Crown Trail in orange*

**Rosewood Park Community Listening Session:** On August 5<sup>th</sup>, the Historic Preservation and Tourism Program (HPTP) and the University of Texas School of Architecture (UTSOA) will host a community listening session at the Doris Miller Auditorium to capture personal histories and experiences with Rosewood Park. The HPTP supports the preservation, restoration, and promotion of historic Austin parks through capital investment, historic documentation, and inclusive marketing of historic sites and events to tourists. The HPTP is currently working with the UTSOA to develop a nomination for Rosewood Park to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Assistant Professor Dr. Tara Dudley and graduate student Ciara Hackman are leading the effort, which was made possible through the City of

Austin/University of Texas Interlocal Agreement. The objective of the small event is to collect oral histories of current and previous Rosewood Park users to expand the collective knowledge of the under-documented aspects of the park's history. The oral histories will be recorded, transcribed, and provided to the Austin History Center. The information received will also assist with the NRHP nomination. Additional outreach will include the distribution of flyers and communications with local organizations before the event to promote it to anyone who wants to share their experience with Rosewood Park.

#### **District 1**

**Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex Community Conversation:** The Department in cooperation with ARCDC is engaging MYEC stakeholders and community members to explore and develop a vision for the future of the MYEC that identifies key interests and concerns of the community, the mission of the MYEC, and possible improvements needed to fulfill the vision. As part of this process, community members are invited to participate in a community conversation around the Millennium on July 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

#### **Millennium Community Conversation**

Millennium Youth Entertainment Complex

1164 Hargrave St.

Austin, TX 78702

Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.

[Project Webpage](#)

#### **District 1**

## **PLANNING UPDATES:**

**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 second hearing was approved on May 18, 2022 ([Item 55](#)). A third reading was scheduled for July 20 but has been postponed to an expected date of August 31<sup>st</sup>. The Parks and Recreation Board voted this PUD as superior at the September 26, 2022 meeting. As the Council approval process has proceeded and will proceed, the PUD ordinance evolves. **District 5**

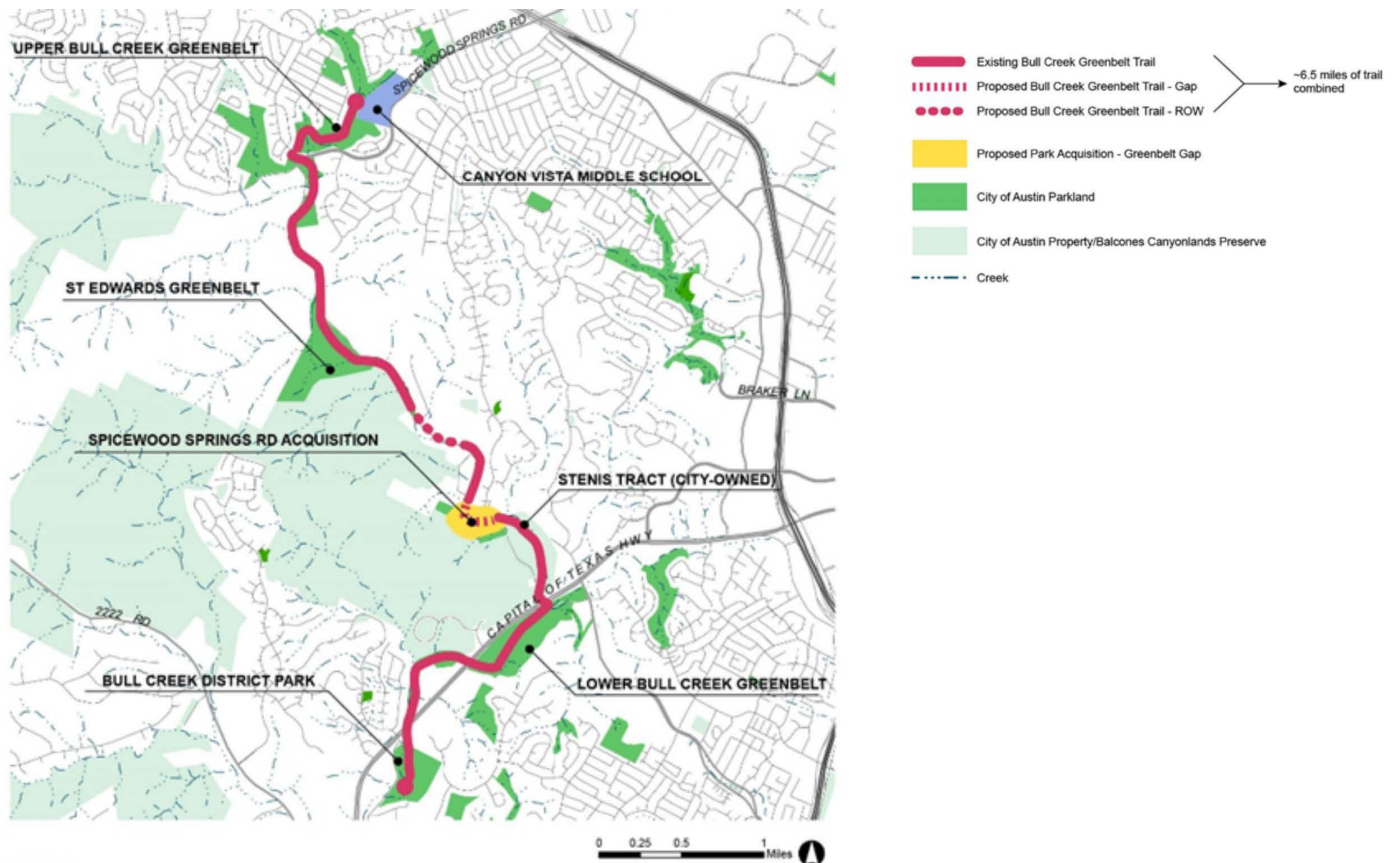
**Zilker Metropolitan Park Vision Plan:** The planning team continues to review recent feedback. The draft plan's presentation to Council is anticipated for August 29 and August 31, 2023. **Districts 5 and 8**

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

**Bull Creek Bluff Neighborhood Park Condemnation Proceedings:** Council approved a settlement in Cause No. C-1-CV-20-004568, City of Austin v. 6315 Spicewood, L.P., Condemnation Proceeding in County Court at Law No. 2. In July 2020, City Council authorized the use of eminent domain in acquiring 6315 Spicewood Springs Road, a property equal to approximately 11 acres along Bull Creek, for use as parkland. In 2022, Travis County Commissioners Court held a hearing that resulted in the City taking possession of the property and an award amount set for the value of the property. Since then, the City and the defendant (property owner) have sought a settlement for ongoing litigation regarding the condemnation. This settlement was considered and approved by City Council on July 20<sup>th</sup>. The

acquisition is critical to completing the Upper Bull Creek Greenbelt and providing a major trailhead for this popular amenity.

## Districts 6 and 10



Map showing proposed acquisition along the Bull Creek Greenbelt

**Project Connect:** The Department will resume coordination with Austin Transit Partnership (ATP) in late-July on the environmental process for the Austin Light Rail Implementation Plan. The Department will continue to coordinate with ATP and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on the 6F process for identifying a replacement property for the Waller Beach impacts. Funding has been identified for the Youth Hostel Feasibility Study, and staff will refine the draft Scope of Work. **Multiple Districts**  
<https://www.projectconnect.com/>

## DEVELOPMENT UPDATES:

**Demolition of Givens Pool:** Givens Recreation Center recently began demolition of the Givens Pool in preparation of the aquatic facility renovation. A section of the front parking lot, extending to the pool has been sectioned off as the construction area, while the demolition progresses through the entirety of the summer. The project is slated to run through the remainder of 2023 with a projected completion date of Spring 2024. [Givens Aquatic Facility Renovation | AustinTexas.gov](#) **District 1**





*Givens Recreation Aquatic Facility Renovation Concept for 2024*

**Bike Polo Court:** Mendez Recreation Center recently completed the renovation of their bike polo court in Metz Neighborhood Park. The project, funded by Austin Parks Foundation, provides the East Austin community with a multi-purpose court amenity for both bike polo and tennis participants. The site hosted a ribbon cutting for the new park amenity Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup> from 7-8 p.m. **District 3**



*Metz Neighborhood Park's New Bike Polo/Tennis Court*

**George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center Theater and Accessibility Renovation:**

On July 20, Council authorized the award and execution of a construction contract with Rs Ellis Inc. / Southwest Corporation for a total contract amount not to exceed \$3,335,631. The scope of work will address various accessibility issues throughout the facility, replace the theater house and stage lighting with energy-efficient LED fixtures, update the audio and visual systems for current theatre performance needs, improve the stage rigging and fly cabling system, provide new backstage storage solutions, provide a new dance room and theater stage flooring, replace the HVAC control and building heating system, replace restroom plumbing fixtures, and improve lighting in the administrative, conference, and classroom areas. The project was bid through the City's Financial Services Department Central Procurement Invitation for Bid process and advertised from late February through late April. Bids were opened on April 20. The project is being funded through the 2018 General Obligation Bonds. **District 1**  
<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/carver-expansion-phase1>

**Walter E. Long Metro Park Improvement Project:** Per Texas Parks and Wildlife Department requirements, the Department requested and received authorization from City Council to apply for a Local Parks Program Urban Outdoor 1:1 matching grant in the amount of \$1.5 million to support the Walter E. Long Metro Park Improvement Project. The grant will supplement 2018 GO Bond Proposition C funds and gate entry fees that have been allocated to the project. The project will set the groundwork for future phases of the Walter E. Long Vision Plan by rehabilitating site infrastructure and developing new recreational features like picnic facilities, nature trails, and a playground as the budget allows. **District 1** <https://www.austintexas.gov/walter-e-long-park-improvements>

**Austin Memorial Park Cemetery Restroom Renovations:** Renovation of the 96-year-old service tower restroom reached completion on July 21, and re-open to the public and cemetery staff. Renovations include full replacement of interior walls and finishes, full remodel of electrical and plumbing services, and modern accessories to meet accessibility standards. Two of the five windows were replaced to match the original 8-pane windows with custom solid wood doors and new door frames to match historic photographs. The original service tower restroom was built with an internal concrete ceiling, which likely functioned as a water storage tank to provide water and restroom services below. This would be a necessity before city water lines were available to the area. Department cemetery staff and Historic Preservation Group worked collaboratively with design consultant FGM Architects, and the Job-Order-Contractor to modernize the 137 square foot restroom and provide services to the community for decades to come. This project was managed by Park Development in conjunction with on-site cemetery staff. Funded by 2018 bonds for ADA improvements. **District 7**  
<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/austin-memorial-park-cemetery-restroom-renovation>





*Exterior of renovated service tower restroom in comparison to historical photograph taken in the late 1920's-early 1930's, courtesy of the Austin History Center*



*Interior of ADA compliant restroom*

**Barton Springs Bathhouse Rehabilitation:** On July 20, Council set a public hearing date of September 14 for a site-specific Save Our Springs (SOS) Amendment to complete the Barton Springs Bathhouse Rehabilitation project. The SOS Ordinance as written prohibits development in the critical water quality zone (CWQZ) for Barton Springs and would not permit the rehabilitation of this facility. Additionally, the Barton Springs Bathhouse was originally constructed before the adoption of the SOS Ordinance and does not currently comply with impervious cover limits. The proposed site-specific amendments to the SOS Ordinance would allow the rehabilitation of the existing building on the south side of William Barton Drive, new underground water and wastewater service to support the bathhouse structure with adequate fire flow, construction of a fire lane on the west side of the bathhouse for adequate emergency access around the structure, and landscaping around the restroom building and on the south side of William Barton Drive to improve the quality of existing vegetation. Because Austin Land

Development Code 25-8-515 prohibits variances from the SOS Ordinance, the amendment requires a complex schedule of initial and final readings at several boards and commissions culminating in approval by a supermajority of the City Council.

The amendment was previously presented to the Codes and Ordinance Joint Committee for initiation on June 21 and final hearing on July 19, the Parks and Recreation Board on June 26 as a briefing, and the Environmental Commission for approval on July 5, 2023. It will be presented to the Planning Commission for a hearing on July 25. City Council voted on July 20<sup>th</sup> to set a public hearing for September 14<sup>th</sup> to consider the variance.

The Competitive Sealed Proposal solicitation for construction posted on June 26, 2023, and proposals are due on August 8, 2023. Construction is anticipated to start in early 2024. Funding for the rehabilitation project is provided through 2012 GO Bond funds, the Historic Preservation Fund, and contributions from the Barton Springs Conservancy. Additional exhibit contributions are provided by the city's Watershed Protection Department and Austin Water Department. **District 8**  
<https://www.austintexas.gov/departments/barton-springs-bathhouse-rehabilitation>

**Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Phase 2 Improvements:** An update on the project progress and status will be provided to the Hispanic Latino Quality of Life Resource Advisory Commission on July 25, 2023. The Joint Venture Miró Rivera Architects + Tatiana Bilbao ESTUDIO (JV MRA+TBE) have completed the Construction Documents for the first package of construction work, which is site and infrastructure improvements. Negotiation and execution of a contract with the Construction Manager-at-Risk, Rogers O'Brien Construction is in progress. The second package of construction documents for the building expansion, renovation, and landscaping is underway with 90% drawings expected at the end of July. Bidding for the second package is nearly complete. The Development Services Department (DSD) is reviewing revised site development plans by JV MRA+TBE to clear the remaining comments for site permit. It is anticipated that the site permit will be issued upon the approval of this final review, anticipated any day. The renovation drawings related to the mechanical utility yard in the facility parking lot have been submitted for a building permit. This Central Plant Building permit review process will run independently from the main building permit required for the expansion and renovation of the facility and will aid in expediting construction to keep the project on schedule. Site construction is anticipated to begin in August 2023, followed by the construction of the building expansion, renovations, and landscaping. Project completion is anticipated in mid-2025. Funding is available through the voter-approved 2018 General Obligation Bonds and Parkland Dedication Fees. **District 9** <https://www.austintexas.gov/MaccPhase2>

**Bull Creek District Park Restroom Renovations:** In a continuation of the recently completed Bull Creek District Park improvements, the park restroom renovation will begin construction in late Summer 2023, with anticipated completion in Spring 2024. The renovation focuses on facility repairs and ADA access. The exterior walls of the restroom will remain while the roof and interior components will be redesigned and replaced. The park improvements were identified in a 2016 concept plan after several community engagement events that same year. **District 10**  
<https://www.austintexas.gov/departments/bull-creek-district-park-improvements>

**Tarrytown Neighborhood Park Playground Renovations:** On July 10, the Department began construction activities for the playscape replacement and associated ADA improvements at Tarrytown Neighborhood Park. The existing, outdated manufactured playground will be replaced with new equipment that includes integrated shade fabric canopies. The existing play curbs will be expanded to provide more play space and a new drinking fountain with a dog bowl will be installed. Public access to the existing drinking fountain will remain through the end of construction. Community feedback from engagement events in the spring and summer of 2022 was utilized to select specific features that meet the neighborhood's current uses and desires. Along with the manufactured playscape, the department intends to add Nature Play amenities adjacent to the playground to encourage exploratory, tactile, and organic play value throughout the park. The playground will be closed to the public while construction is underway. The project is anticipated to be completed before October of this year. Funding is provided by 2018 General Obligation Bonds. **District 10**

<https://www.austintexas.gov/departments/tarrytown-neighborhood-park-playscape-replacement>



*Rendering of proposed playscape for 2–5-year-olds at Tarrytown Neighborhood Park and current conditions*

## MAINTENANCE UPDATES:

### Aquatic Maintenance Update:

- Repaired vandalism items at Liz Carpenter splash pad. **District 9**
- Bartholomew Splash Pad replacement motor installed. **District 9**
- Dove Springs Pool return line break in gutter repaired. The return line break was causing water loss and the manual fill was always left open. Less water will be used going forward and will be able to manage chemical levels better. **District 2**
- Metz splash pad chemical controller updated with a Prominent DCM 513. Will result in helping monitor the splash pad chemical levels remotely and make corrections as needed saving down time and mechanic drive time. **District 3**
- Montopolis Pool water line break repaired by PARD plumbers. The break caused shutting water off to restrooms and pool autofill. **District 3**
- Baby Pool parts replaced at Patterson Pool **District 9**



**Barton Springs Pool:**

- Pay stations are having a new wrap designed by the Communications and Engagement Unit (CEU) to include the “Quick Response codes” (QR) and the words “credit card only” in both English and Spanish.
- To increase success at Barton Springs the department will increase shifts to perform customer service and maintenance tasks, including but not limited to, greeting patrons, assisting with entry to the facility, enforcing rules and taking out trash.
- The hanging light has been re-installed and department continues to evaluate the lighting challenges as the bulb is not lit.
- Evaluating credit card machine options for improved experience. **District 5**

**Deep Eddy Pool:** Well 1 repaired and back to regular operating hours of 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. daily.  
**District 10**

**Lobby and Office Floors Installation – Oswaldo A.B. Cantu/Pan American Recreation Center:** Pan Am Recreation Center recently began installation of their lobby and office floors in early July in anticipation of their renovation project. The new flooring will include the light-colored laminate flooring being newly installed in the Community Recreation Division Recreation Centers. The scope of the project will take roughly two weeks to finish and is set to be completed by mid-July. The new flooring will replace all the outdated flooring within the first-floor main lobby, as well as the front staff offices. **District 3**

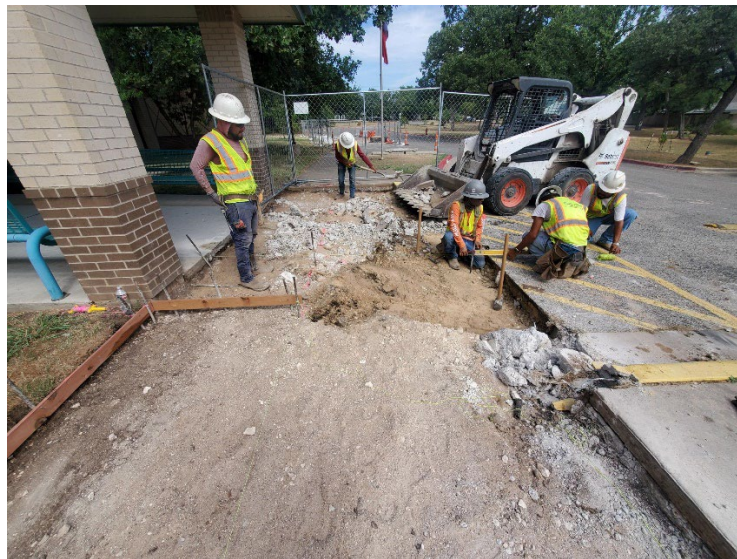


*Oswaldo A.B. Cantu/Pan American Recreation Center Floor Renovation Project*

**Parking Lot Improvements at South Austin Senior Activity Center:** Americans with Disabilities Act parking lot improvements began the week of July 17<sup>th</sup>. Improvements will include reducing curbs, adding more accessible parking spaces, widening the front entrance incline, adding speed humps, and resurfacing portions of the parking lot. **District 5**

**Lamar Senior Activity Center:** The roof in the multipurpose room roof still has a small leak. Facility maintenance is in the process of assessing additional repair options. The floor replacement is tentatively scheduled for the month of August. **District 9**

**South Austin Senior Activity Center Parking Lot and Exterior ADA Improvements:** Exterior improvements to ADA parking stalls, drop-off loading zone, and accessible routes were completed on Monday July 17, 2023. The project provides a compliant path from the Cap Metro bus stop on nearby Menchaca Road to the facility entrance. Improvements also include a more user-friendly drop-off zone, a compliant egress route, new paint striping, ramps, and an accessible employee entrance at the rear of building. To reduce impacts to daily events, construction was scheduled to coincide with the facility closure for maintenance week. At the request of facility staff and activity center stakeholders, new speed bumps were installed to reduce traffic speed by vehicles that use the parking lot as a cut-through. The work was completed as part of the Department Asphalt Parking Lot/Roads Construction, Rehab and Repair Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract and funded by 2018 Bonds for ADA improvements. **District 5**



*Construction of the accessible path and drop-off at facility entrance.*

## PROGRAM UPDATES:

### District 1:

**Skateboards Given to Youth and Teens from Austin Area:** Givens Recreation Center recently provided youth and teens from around the Austin area a chance to receive free Skateboards from Daniel Barousse, the leader of the Heart of Texas fundraiser. The event was held June 25-29 and the giveaway was also sponsored by Element and partnering agency No Comply, a local skate shop in the Austin community. The mission of the project was to enrich the youth lives with opportunities and new possible hobbies. Skateboarding serves as a source that helps youth find new ways to overcome challenges and build personal motivation. It is an outlet that has youth form identity and open new doors to music, art, style and much more. A total of 75 skateboards were given out.





*Teens From Local Recreation Centers Showing Off Their Free Skateboards.*

**Summer Camp at Delores Duffie Recreation Center:** This past summer has been a fun and eventful summer for camp participants at Delores Duffie Recreation Center. Recently camp participants were treated to ice cream and a meet and greet with the City of Austin Mayor Kirk Watson. The event took place on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The mayor handed out ice cream to over 45 summer camp participants of Delores Duffie and patrons of the Rosewood swimming pool.



*Delores Duffie Recreation Center Summer Camp Participants Are Treated to Popsicles  
Courtesy of Austin Mayor Kirk Watson in Rosewood Neighborhood Park*

**“The Gift Project:”** Conley Guerrero Senior Activity Center will host a program titled “Advance Care Planning made easy: by The Gift Project.” This workshop will focus on estate planning for the last chapter of life. There will be two workshop sessions:

- Workshop 1 – July 20<sup>th</sup>, 11-11:50 a.m.
- Workshop 2 – August 10<sup>th</sup>, 11-11:50 a.m.



**“Carnaval Concert”:** Conley Guerrero Senior Activity Center hosted an intergenerational “Carnaval” Concert in collaboration with the Centralized Programming Division from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. on Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, and will include a performance from the All-Rhythms Band. Refreshments will be served. Staff are expecting 100 participants.

**Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center:** The site hosted an intergenerational event in partnership with APD on June 21<sup>st</sup>. The event included trash clean up, games, fitness class, a coloring activity and much more. There were 50 teens and 20 seniors who were part of this experience.



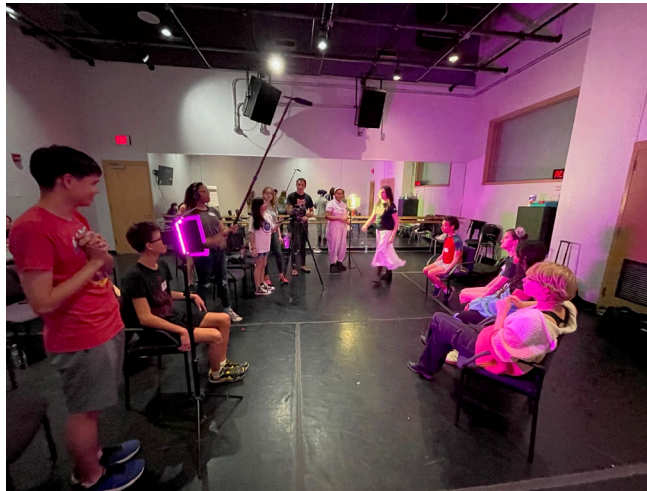
*Participants Taking Part in Park Cleanup Participants Participating in Stretch and Strength Class*

**An Evening with Tones – Asian American Resource Center:** The third and final installment of an Evening with Tones was held on June 29<sup>th</sup>, featuring local Asian American musicians Sayang and Kate de Rosset. Described as a cozy and casual night of music, the event included performances, a Q&A, and a song exchange/open mic component open to attendees. This intimate and informal music series was created for emerging musicians and creatives to be in dialogue with the audience, garner feedback and ideas about their craft, and to share their work with community. There were 56 participants at the event.

**Totally Cool, Totally ART (TCTA) Theater Camp – George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural and Genealogy Center:** Totally Cool, Totally Art (TCTA) is partnering with the Austin Civilian Conservation Corps (ACCC) to host the first ever Professional Teen Theater Company focused on theater for young audiences. Teenagers 16-19 years of age are paid actors, writers, and set designers working collaboratively to create an original narrative musical for youth 6-12 years old attending the Summer Playgrounds Program. The musical is currently in production and will be performed at youth camps throughout the department later this summer.



*Students Work on Improv Comedy skills*



*Students Work on Non-illusory Theatre Skills*

**District 2:**

**Graphic Design Classes:** The George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center collaborated with the Mexican American Cultural Center to facilitate graphic design classes for Boredom Buster participants, ages 5-12. 17 participants engaged in creating their own personalized graphic design t-shirts. This program consisted of five sessions that took place on June 26-30, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m.



*Boredom Buster Participants Creating Artwork for Their T-Shirt Design*

**Varsity Generation – George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center:** The George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center took their Varsity Generation participants on a field trip to the Austin Nature & Science Center on Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. 20 participants engaged in nature exploration and recreational activities such as kite making during their visit.



*Varsity Generation Participants Enjoying Their Hand Made Kites*

**Dinosaur Park:** The George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center youth summer camp participants, ages 5-8, took a field trip visit to the Dinosaur Park on Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>. 26 participants engaged in dinosaur inspired curriculum and trail exploration.





*Summer Camp Participants and Staff Pose for a Group Photo at the “Dinosaur Park”*



*Camp participants take a photo with their new dinosaur friend*

### **District 3:**

**We Love Flowers Collaborative Painting – Montopolis Recreation and Community Center:** Brian “Bydeeman” Joseph is a local artist who teamed up with the Montopolis Recreation and Community Center’s Varsity Generation class to create a collaborative painting titled, “We Love Flowers.” Bydee stands for bringing you delightful entertaining experiences, and with nine Varsity Generation participants, “We Love Flowers” was designed. The painting was created on June 29<sup>th</sup>, and is currently showcased in the lobby of the Montopolis facility.



Brian "Bydeeman" Joseph with Varsity Generation Art Participants

**Historical Event at Oswaldo A.B. Cantu/Pan American Recreation Center:** This year will mark Oswaldo A.B. Cantu/Pan American Recreation Center's 65<sup>th</sup> year of the historical event that kicks off in the month of July. The event headlines Latino and Tejano musical guests, among others for the east Austin community. The event remains open and free to the public and includes community vendors food trucks and more. The concert series is held each Tuesday night in July from 6-10 p.m. The event is showcased outside on the Pan Am neighborhood stage. This series is supported in partnership with the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center. [Press Release Pan Am Hillside](#)



Oswaldo A.B. Cantu/Pan American Recreation Center 65<sup>th</sup> Hillside Concert Series Flyer

**Movie Under the Stars:** Mendez Recreation Center continues to host their annual Movie Under the Stars series. The movies will be shown on Friday evenings, around 8:30 p.m. (when the sun sets)



throughout the summer months of June, July, and August. The most recent event was held on July 7<sup>th</sup>, and showcased Marvels Franchise Movie, “Thor: Love and Thunder” to 87 community members in attendance.



*Mendez Recreation Center host Movie Under the stars in Metz Park*

**Austin Pride Festival:** Annual Austin Pride Festival is scheduled for Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and will be held at Festival Beach, Fiesta Gardens West End Site. Expected attendance 2,500-5,000.

[Austin Pride Festival](#)

#### **District 4:**

**Senior Garden Update:** Virginia L Brown Recreation Center’s Senior Garden is getting a much-needed upgrade. With the help of City of Austin Community Gardens Program staff, St. David’s Foundation and Austin Parks Foundation, the Senior Garden will have new stone garden beds, mulch grounds, beautiful bushes and plants, benches, and more. The project started in mid-June and is expected to be completed by the end of July. Once completed, there will be a Senior Garden Club and a youth garden club for Summer Camp and After School programming.





*Virginia L. Brown Senior Garden After Three Weeks of Renovations*

**Gus Garcia Recreation Center Varsity Generation Tea Party:** On Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Varsity Generation at Gus Garcia Recreation Center put together a Tea Party and birthday celebration for the month of June. Nearly 40 Varsity Generation participants attended to sample different styles of tea accompanied by various cheeses and fruits as well as pastries and sweets.



*A View from The Varsity Generation Tea Party*

**District 5:**

**Estate Planning for Senior Adults:** South Austin Senior Activity Center (SASAC) partnered with Age of Central Texas and Clayton and Ramirez Law Firm to offer free will and estate planning for low-income senior adults. An information session was held on May 16<sup>th</sup>, in which representatives from Clayton and Ramirez Law Firm presented the program to over 20 SASAC participants. After which, those interested were able to register for the program. The Estate Planning Seminar took place on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, and served 17 registered participants with 12 lawyers donating their time to the event. Those who participated described it as a “lifesaver” and they were all very happy to have taken part. There are talks to host another one in 2024.

**Blues on the Green:** Annual free citywide concerts, Blues on the Green, were held July 18-19, 8-10 p.m. on the Zilker Park Great Lawn. Two free back-to-back shows will be offered to the public. Attendance estimated between 5,000-10,000 per show. [Blues on the Green - Show 1](#)

**Zilker Botanical Garden Free Day:** The Zilker Botanical Garden hosted one of eight annual Free Days on Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. Admission was waived for all attendees throughout the day. Total attendance was 592.

**Zilker Botanical Garden Woodland Faerie Trail by Moonlight:** The Zilker Botanical Garden had its Woodland Faerie Trail by Moonlight on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, but due to severe weather, it was rescheduled for Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, from 7-10 p.m. 371 people attended the event.

The annual Woodland Faerie Trail exhibit at the Zilker Botanical Garden opened Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, and will continue through Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. The exhibit features faerie homes created and installed by members of the community and a faerie-themed story walk adds to the self-guided adventure. Visit [www.zilker garden.org](http://www.zilker garden.org) for a listing of activities. To date, the exhibit has been well attended.

#### **District 6:**

**Varsity Generation Tai Chi:** Pickfair Community Center hosts a year-round Tai Chi class for Varsity Generation participants (50 years of age and older) every Friday from 10-11 a.m. This program has a dedicated group of 5-10 community members who participate each Friday.

#### **District 7:**

**Youth Basketball League:** Northwest Recreation Center has 17 youth, ages 5-12, registered to participate in the citywide Summer Youth Basketball League. Participants will practice one time each week at the Northwest Recreation Center and then play games every Saturday at the Gus Garcia Recreation Center, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The league is set to begin on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **District 8:**

**Homeless Encampment Closures:** As mentioned in last month's report, Gaines Creek was identified as a Housing-focused Encampment Link (HEAL) site by the Homeless Encampment Management (HEM) team and was closed on June 20<sup>th</sup>. The Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST) and the Housing Strategy Division with Austin Public Health (APH) were able to take 75 individuals into the bridge shelters, the remaining 10 were not present during the week transportation was provided or decided to decline shelter. Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) was able to collect 202 tons of trash/debris from the site. The Department's contractor, Enterprise Professional Services Inc. (EPSI), cleaned Gaines Creek by hand-picking the remaining small trash items that were not collected from ARR's equipment. EPSI completed work on Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **District 9:**

**Hancock Recreation Center's Golf Lessons:** 35 youth, ages 5-11, attended Hancock's Summer Camp partnership with First Tee Austin on June 13<sup>th</sup>, and June 15<sup>th</sup>, from 10-11 a.m. During each session, kids learned about golf etiquette, practiced their short distance putting skills, and worked on their longer distance pitching skills.



*Participants Practicing Their Putting Skills*

**Open Play Pickleball at Austin Recreation Center (ARC):** On July 5<sup>th</sup>, Austin Recreation Center began hosting open play Pickleball on Wednesdays from 1:30-5:30 p.m. The gymnasium at ARC contains three indoor pickleball courts for participants to enjoy. The summer open play has brought in 15 new players over the first two weeks. The program is expected to grow as players look for more opportunities to play during the hot summer months. Summer open play hours will continue into August and the program will look to host different times and days in the Fall.



*Teri Sarver Serves to Opposing Players*

**Elisabet Ney Museum Ice Cream Social Event:** On July 10<sup>th</sup>, in partnership with the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association, the Ney hosted an annual Ice Cream Social event on the grounds of the Museum. Five local businesses participated while the Museum provided art activities and tours for the over 600 guests that attended the summer kickoff event. It was a family friendly event that also celebrated the opening of Shipe Pool.



*Museum Guests Participate in Art Activities and Engage with Booths from Local Organizations*

**Brush Square Museums Final Fridays All You Bead Is Love:** On June 30<sup>th</sup>, Brush Square Museums hosted a free hands-on jewelry-making workshop as part of the “Final Fridays” workshop series for the O. Henry



Museum. All supplies were provided, and participants had a wonderful time crafting their own creations to remind them of the experience! 10 people participated in the event.



*Brush Square Museum Workshop Participants  
Working on Beading Projects at Tables*

**Old Bakery & Emporium Midsummer Event:** On June 24<sup>th</sup>, visitors enjoyed live Scandinavian folk music, Swedish pastries from Fika Table, a traditional Swedish maypole, meatballs, and more! It was a fun family event that celebrated the Swedish-American culture in Austin. Visitors who attended came from nearby cities such as Houston, Ft. Worth, Round Rock, and other cities. This has become a traditional annual summer event that many look forward to. 350 people were in attendance.



*Visitors From Houston Displaying Their  
Swedish Flag at the Midsummer Event*

**Group Mural by Dougherty Arts Center Works in Progress Interns:** On Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, and Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, the Dougherty Arts Center's Works in Progress (WIP) interns painted and designed a mural at Kenny Dorham's Backyard. Kenny Dorham's Backyard is an outdoor music venue which aims to honor traditional African American music by providing multidisciplinary and multicultural events to the Austin community. The WIP interns designed the image of the mural to reflect the history of the space. With the help and direction of Austin muralist Elizabeth Hudson, the interns painted their own

original work and touched up an existing mural. The Dougherty Arts Centers Works in Progress internship is an immersive program that prepares teens living in the Austin metropolitan area for careers in the arts. There were 10 people in attendance. Additional information on the program can be found at the Works in Progress webpage: <https://www.austintexas.gov/worksinprogress>



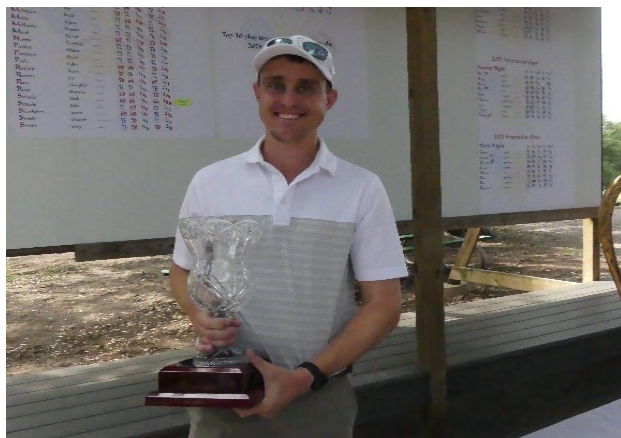
*WIP Interns Working Together on the Mural*



*Finished Mural by WIP Interns*

#### **District 10:**

**Firecracker Open Tournament Wrap Up:** The 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Firecracker Open was held at Lions Municipal Golf Course on July 1-3. Two qualifying tournaments were held on June 17<sup>th</sup>, and June 20<sup>th</sup>, with 243 participants. Those who qualified were invited into the Firecracker Open along with the exempt players, a total of 150 players including two players from the University of Texas Women's Golf team. The Firecracker was won by Nick Schafer of Austin. Schafer won the tightly contested tournament with rounds of 69-65-64 (198). Two-time Masters Champion and Firecracker past champion, Ben Crenshaw, was on hand to congratulate the winner. Registration for the City Championship opened online on July 5<sup>th</sup>.



Nick Schafer



Ben Crenshaw, Nick Schafer, Billy Claggett

#### **Multiple Districts**

**Dallas Morning News Annual Golf Course Report:** The Dallas Morning News released their annual golf course report which ranks golf courses in the State of Texas based on conditions and affordability.



GolfATX properties fared very well on this years list. Of the Top Public Golf Courses, Roy Kizer ranked 33 of 50. Of the Top 25 Lower/Mid-Priced courses, Morris Williams was #8, Jimmy Clay was #10, Lions was #15. Of the Top 25 Mid/Upper Priced courses, Roy Kizer was #9. This is the best-ever overall ranking the Golf ATX properties have scored. **Districts 1 and 2**

**Youth Basketball League:** The summer basketball season is currently underway and the central area sites have completed registration for each age group, 5-12, with over 150 participants registered in the league. Participants from Givens, Turner-Roberts, Delores Duffie, Mendez, Parque Zaragoza and Oswaldo A.B. Cantu/Pan American Recreation Centers are all combined to make the central area league, with teams from each site. Game times will be played at Turner-Roberts Recreation Center each Saturday in July and August, with games beginning July 15<sup>th</sup>, and will run every Saturday until Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. Game times for each Saturday will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will continue until 5:00 p.m. in both gymnasiums located at Turner-Roberts Recreation Center. **Districts 1 and 3**

The South District Recreation Centers, Dittmar, George Morales Dove Springs, South Austin, and Montopolis Recreation Centers, began practice for their Youth Summer Basketball League on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. A total of 343 participants, ages 3-12, are registered for the league with a total of 44 teams. Games will take place on Thursdays and Fridays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The first set of games will begin on Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. **District 2, 3 and 5**

**Austin Civilian Conservation Corps (ACCC):** ACCC plans were put into place in the month of June to provide an estimated 30-35 students from Clifton Career Development School. These students who range from 16 to 18 years of age will be participating in sessions that will teach them about natural resources careers as well as getting them hands-on experience with young professionals from the department. The group will also attend nearby parks (Buttermilk, Bartholomew, Hancock and Shipe. **Districts 1, 4 and 9**



*Students Participating in ACCC Sessions*



**PGA Junior Golf:** The Golf ATX courses hosted 510 Southern Texas PGA junior golfers participating in three 18-hole Junior Tour tournaments and four Little Linksters 9-hole tournaments. Events were held at Morris Williams, Lions Municipal and Jimmy Clay. The Southern Texas PGA is one of 41 PGA of America Sections in the country and serves over 800 PGA members and associates that work within the golf industry. The organization focuses on areas that enhance their members' abilities to be world-class golf professionals. This includes tournaments, educational seminars, employment support, and "grow the game" initiatives. **Districts 1, 2 and 10**

**Inclusion Support Services Summer Camp Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Modifications – All Recreation Centers:** Summer is the busiest time of year for Inclusion Support Services providing ADA modifications for participants with disabilities attending summer camps in 22 Parks and Recreation facilities. Inclusion Support Services Full-time Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist has provided individualized participant modification plans, reduced ratio staffing support, adaptive equipment (including visual schedules and timers) and staff training for 56 participants thus far. The need for support services has steadily increased over the years and this summer Inclusion Support Services has provided services for more children than any previous year in the program's history. **Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10**



*Inclusion Staff Support Participants Out on the Water*

**Zilker Park Weekend Shuttle:** The Zilker Park Weekend Shuttle has served over 1,500 riders as of July 17. Recent marketing efforts include new signage placed at key areas around the park, two large temporary electronic signs along Barton Springs Road, promotion via electronic traffic signs on Cesar Chavez Street, weekly pop-ups near Barton Springs Pool distributing flyers and answering questions, and radio ads on KUTX. A street banner was installed at 200 South Congress Street during the first half of July, and a street banner will remain at 1216 South Lamar for the remainder of the month. The shuttle kicked off on Saturday, May 27, 2023, and will run through Labor Day Weekend, September 4, 2023. The shuttle runs from One Texas Center Parking Garage (South 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Barton Springs Road) from 10

AM to 6 PM on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays. Parking at One Texas Center is free with validation for all shuttle riders. **Districts 5 and 8**

<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/zilker-metropolitan-park>



*Signs advertising the Zilker Shuttle outside the entrance to Barton Springs*

#### **All Districts:**

**Cities Connecting Children to Nature (CCCN):** Staff recently presented on the updated Joint-Use Agreement for the Texas Children in Nature Network (TCiNN) in May and the Children & Nature Network International Conference in June. Staff also presented on the results of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant that examined the impact of eco-features installed at the Green School Parks on heat, children's physical activity, and the connection between nature and social-emotional learning to TCiNN in June. Austin was selected to speak on the Department's CCCN efforts to the newest CCCN cities at an all-site meeting in San Francisco in May.

<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/cities-connecting-children-nature-initiative>

**Leave No Trace Awareness Campaign:** PARD's Communications and Engagement Unit, in partnership with Austin Resource Recovery and Austin Watershed Protection Department, is refreshing its campaign designed to raise public awareness on how to ensure that our parks, trails, and green spaces are protected and can be enjoyed for generations to come by practicing the seven Leave No Trace principles. The campaign includes banners, digital ads, blog posts, social media, and videos. Find more Leave No Trace information at [AustinTexas.gov/LeaveNoTrace](https://AustinTexas.gov/LeaveNoTrace).



**In The Parks Video Series:** PARD's Communications and Engagement Unit, in partnership with the City's cable channel ATXN, has rebooted its In The Parks video series featuring personal stories about PARD staff and the public who uses our green spaces, facilities, and services. In The Parks videos connect Austinites to the places they love and the people who define our quality recreational, cultural, and outdoor experiences. Through these videos, we explore people and places that make Austin's park system one of a kind, and how, working together, We Create Community! [Watch the videos on YouTube](#).



**Over 1000 Lifeguards Hired and All Pools Open:** PARD's Communications and Engagement Unit has successfully completed its 2023 swim season communications and marketing campaign. The campaign included street banners, digital ads, social media posts, testimonials, and press releases that led to robust earned media. There have been over 30 news stories about City pools and lifeguard hiring efforts since January of 2023. The Department would like to thank Mayor and Council, City leadership, Human Resources Team, partner organizations, communications staff, and the dedicated lifeguards who helped make this possible. [Over 1000 Lifeguards Hired in the 2023 Swim Season!](#)



#### Homeless Response:

- Number of 311 calls related to homelessness on parkland in June: 338
- Number of fires reported from AFD in June: 9
- Number of The Other One's Foundation (TOOF) site visits for trash abatement in June: 32
- Volume of trash collected by TOOF in June (May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 16<sup>th</sup>): 28,000 pounds



## ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:

**Golf Division Marketing:** The golf division, Golf ATX, received a Certificate of Trademark Registration from the Office of the Secretary of State for the division's Golf ATX logo. The trademark applies to goods and services and expires five years from the registration date with renewal 6 months prior to this date.

### All Districts



**Zilker Train:** The new train manufacturer will be picking up the existing train coaches from Zilker Park to take to their machine shop for modifications beginning in July. This will be a multistep process since it will require several trips to collect all the coaches. At the end of July or early August, APF will communicate a tentative timeline for future train operations to PARD and provide a public communication and press release regarding the status of the Zilker Eagle.

**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 solicitation was published on June 5<sup>th</sup>, and was extended and scheduled to close on July 20<sup>th</sup>. 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<sup>th</sup>, 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 5<sup>th</sup>, Central Procurement cancelled the solicitation on behalf of the City and will re-solicit. The contract with the current vendor, Rowing Dock, was extended through October 31<sup>st</sup>. In July 2023, PARD staff requested/will request the Contracts and Concession Committee and Parks Board recommend City Council authorize a one-year contract extension with the Rowing Dock. The extension will assist the Department in providing quality recreation while giving the City time to resolicit a concessionaire for the Stratford Drive location.

**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 Contracts and Concessions Committee was briefed at the October 21, 2022, meeting on the solicitation. The solicitation was published on June 12, 2023, and closed July 11, 2023. Four proposals were received. Once the evaluation process is complete and a contract is authorized by Austin City Council, a contract with the successful proposer will be established. The contract start date will coincide with the completion of the ongoing renovation.

**Zilker Café:** The agreement with the previous vendor has been terminated. A new solicitation was developed to operate and maintain the food and beverage concession on the north side of Barton Springs Pool in Zilker Park. The scope of work for the solicitation was presented to the Contracts and Concession Committee on May 19<sup>th</sup> and published on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Central Procurement held a pre-proposal meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup>, and proposals for this solicitation are due by July 25<sup>th</sup>, following a two-week extension for responses. A contract with the successful proposer is anticipated to be executed by November 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. The interlocal agreement was presented to the Contracts and Concessions Committee on May 19<sup>th</sup>, presented to the Parks and Recreation Board on June 26<sup>th</sup>. The interlocal agreement received approval by City Council at the July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Interment Services International:** In June 2013, City Council approved a five-year contract, for \$3.8 million, with Interment Services International to provide interment and burial services for City of Austin cemeteries. In 2018 and 2021 respectively, with the direction to return to Council for approval of contract extension options, City Council approved a three-year extension option and a two-year option. With one five-year extension option remaining, cemetery staff estimates the need to continue to outsource these services for another two years. The lingering economic conditions resulting from the pandemic created challenges and obstacles for Cemetery Operations to fully hire the necessary staff to train for the additional interment/burial services. In addition, the same complications resulted in longer than anticipated supply chain issues with purchasing and acquiring the necessary equipment and machinery necessary to perform these duties and to ensure proper staff training operations. At the end of the two-year period, the Parks and Recreation Department plans to transition all burial and interment services to City personnel. An extension to the contract allows staff time to absorb the increased responsibilities and duties associated with the mandated operational expansion along with current job duties and responsibilities. Without this extension, the contract for burial and interment services expires November 28<sup>th</sup>.

## 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	
July 19	City Manager 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 June 30, 2023:** Of the \$119 million General Fund budget, 73.9 percent or \$88M has been obligated as of the end of June as compared to \$68.4M spent in the same period of the prior fiscal year. \$9.5M of the \$14.1M budgeted General Fund revenue has been collected as of the end of June.

Golf revenue equaling \$8.9M has been collected as of the end of June, which is up compared to the \$7.6M revenue collected by June 2022. Of the \$9.2 million Golf expenditure budget, 84 percent or \$7.7M has been obligated. This is \$1.4M higher in spending as of April of the prior fiscal year.