

## PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**DATE:** *October 2023*

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### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS:

**Barton Springs Bathhouse Rehabilitation:** Two Question & Answer Pop-Up sessions are scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. at the Barton Springs Bathhouse Spectator's Gallery, facing the pool. The pop-ups will provide information on the rehabilitation project with staff ready to answer questions regarding the project scope, limits of construction, project schedule, and the anticipated start of construction in early 2024. Presentation boards with links to the project website will be provided to allow easy access to the monthly project newsletter and a recorded presentation of the project's architectural scope.

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

Additionally, on November 9th, the Capital Delivery Services and Parks and Recreation Departments will be requesting authorization from City Council to negotiate and execute a construction contract with SpawGlass Contractors, the highest-scoring GC proposal from the Competitive Sealed Proposal response. **District 8**

**Sir Swante Palm Neighborhood Park Renovation:** The next small group Community Conversation Community Engagement will be at Rudy Mendez Recreation Center on October 25<sup>th</sup>. There will also be an informational pop-up at the United Way Resource Fair on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Previous Community Conversations were held at Palm Elementary on October 17<sup>th</sup>, Pan Am Recreation Center on October 19<sup>th</sup>, and East Chalmers Community Room on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Registration for these sessions is required and attendees can sign up via online registration form ([English/Spanish](#)), emailing [info@waterloogreenway.org](mailto:info@waterloogreenway.org), or calling (512) 273-7967. The project team also had a table at the Eastside Community School Alliance event on October 20<sup>th</sup>. The online survey collecting public input remains open and is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). **District 9**

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



*Rendering of a proposed design for the Sir Swante Palm Neighborhood Park Renovation*

**Burnett "Blondie" Pharr Tennis Center:** A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Artwork Dedication event will take place on Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. The renovation of the tennis center facility was completed on August 31<sup>st</sup> and opened to the public on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The project rebuilt eight new tennis courts and a half-court with a practice wall. The courts included new energy-efficient sports lighting, fencing, windscreens, and shade structures. The facility provides accessible parking and walkways, new signage, security lighting, park furnishings, and proper site drainage. The pro shop building was brought to current codes with compliant restrooms. **District 9**

<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/pharr-tennis-center-renovation>



*Aerial shot of the newly renovated Burnett "Blondie" Pharr Tennis Center*

**Sanchez Elementary Green School Park:** A ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department (Department) and the Austin Independent School District (AISD) will be held on October 27<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. The new park combines nature play, new trees, an outdoor classroom, and traditional park amenities for an experience that can be enjoyed by children and adults alike. A playful circuit of balance logs, stump jumps, steppingstones, and a play bridge encourage movement, balance, and agility all while engaging with natural materials. **District 3**

<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/sanchez-elementary-green-school-park>





*Nature play area at the Sanchez Elementary Green School Park*

**Buford Tower Rehabilitation:** The Department will hold an open house for media and City Council members from 11:00 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> to mark the completion of the Buford Tower Renovation. The tower, located at 201 W. Cesar Chavez Street, incurred fire damage in April 2021. Buford Tower originally served as a training facility for Austin firefighters between 1930 and 1970. In 1978, the tower was restored and dedicated to Austin Fire Department Captain James Buford. The structure is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places and houses the Kitchen Memorial Chimes, which are set to go off at noon. **District 9**

<https://www.austintexas.gov/departments/buford-tower-repairs>



*Left: The Buford Tower after the fire in 2021. Right: The Buford Tower after renovations.*

**Butler Trail Comprehensive Signage Plan:** The Trail Conservancy (TTC) in partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department (Department) will hold two community engagement pop-ups on the Butler Trail on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. as part of ongoing engagement for the Butler Trail Comprehensive Signage Plan, currently in development. Members of TTC and the project team will update the community on the input received during previous engagements over the summer and share how that input is being addressed in the concept signage design. These pop-ups will be held on the Butler Trail at the Johnson Creek Trailhead and at Festival Beach. A virtual survey will also be available for input for one month starting on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Several other community pop-ups will be held in November. **Districts 3, 5, 8, 9, 10**

<https://thetrailconservancy.org/projects/comprehensive-signage-plan/>

**Bolm District Park Vision Plan:** An open virtual community meeting will take place on November 14<sup>th</sup> to collect feedback that will help guide the Bolm District Park Vision Plan. The Department has contracted with Halff Associates to develop a vision plan for Bolm District Park, a 68-acre undeveloped park along the Colorado River, located at 6700 Bolm Road. Engagement kicked off in October, with the first in-person meeting held on October 10<sup>th</sup> and a virtual meeting held on October 12<sup>th</sup>. These initial small group meetings with surrounding community leaders will assist the planning team in understanding the community values regarding parks and how these communities use park spaces. These values will provide guidance for the overall vision plan development. Three to six pop-up meetings are planned for the remainder of the year, with two more rounds of community engagement planned in 2024. The vision plan and report are anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2024. **District 3**

<https://www.austintexas.gov/departments/bolm-district-park-vision-plan>

## PLANNING UPDATES:

**Colony Park Planned Unit Development Amendment:** Colony Park is a 208-acre Planned Unit Development (PUD) located along Loyola Lane between Highway 183 and Walter E. Long, surrounding Colony Park District Park. The development is located on City-owned land and is to be developed in partnership with the City's Economic Development Department. The City's selected developer has applied for an amendment to the original Colony Park PUD. The amendment proposes a mixed-use neighborhood center that includes single-family, mid-rise multifamily, office, and shopping center land uses. PUD zoning is intended to produce developments superior to the development that would occur under conventional zoning and subdivision regulations. City Council has established that the development as proposed in the PUD amendment achieves superiority per [Resolution No. 20230608-054](#). The PUD zoning is to advance the City's Colony Park Sustainable Communities Initiative, approved in 2014. The PUD amendment includes roughly 42 acres of open space, some of which will be publicly available parkland, with recreational trails connecting to Colony Park District Park. Staff anticipate that City Council will hear the first reading of the PUD amendment before the end of the year. **District 1**

**Spicewood Springs Interlocal Agreement:** On October 19<sup>th</sup>, Council approved authorization to negotiate and execute an Interlocal Agreement with Travis County regarding the coordination of the Spicewood Springs Road Low Water Crossing #1. The agreement between the City of Austin and Travis County will preserve the existing low water crossing located between the addresses 5903 and 6309 Spicewood Springs Road. The current low water crossing is owned by Travis County and is slated to be replaced with a new bridge. The agreement will allow the current low water crossing to remain in place for trail use as part of the upper Bull Creek Greenbelt. This item was recommended by the Contractions and



Concessions Committee on September 20<sup>th</sup> and recommended by the Parks and Recreation Board on September 25<sup>th</sup>. **Districts 6 and 10**

## DEVELOPMENT UPDATES:

**Pavilion Erected at Hancock Golf Course:** In preparation of celebrating 125 years of golf in Austin, Texas, the golf division erected a pavilion at Hancock Golf Course. In addition to this amenity, the # 1 and # 3 teeing grounds were resurfaced with more modern grasses. These improvements were made possible through parkland dedication funds. Hancock Golf Course was originally built in 1899 and was the first golf course west of the Mississippi River as well as the original Austin Country Club. **District 9**

**Montopolis Pool Renovation & Northwest Pool Renovation:** On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, both projects will be presented to the Design Commission to verify compliance with the City's Design and Sustainability Standards. Both projects are pursuing SITES certification and have ambitious plans originally outlined in the 2018 Aquatic Vision Plan. The design team collaborated closely with the Aquatic Division over the past year to align the concept developed in the community engagement phase with all codes and regulations. The projects are being permitted through the new Public Project Review with the Development Services Division. Site Plan approval is anticipated this winter. **Districts 3 and 7**

<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/montopolis-pool-project>

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



*Northwest Pool Rendering*



*Montopolis Pool Rendering*

**Sunken Garden Rehabilitation:** On November 9<sup>th</sup>, the Watershed Protection and Parks and Recreation Departments will be seeking authorization from City Council to negotiate and execute a professional services agreement for the rehabilitation of the historic Sunken Gardens near Barton Springs. The project scope includes design phase services for habitat enhancement and the repair of the historic wall. Funding will be provided through the Parks and Recreation Department's Historic Preservation Funds and the Watershed Department's capital budget. **District 5**

**Zilker Clubhouse Rehabilitation:** The rehabilitation of the 1934 Zilker Clubhouse, which is a contributing structure within the Zilker Park National Register Historic District, includes extensive restoration to address deteriorated features, outdated systems, and ADA accessibility challenges. The work includes a roof replacement, cleaning and fortifying the masonry, lead-based paint and asbestos abatement, and restoration of the windows, doors, chimneys, and ironwork. It also includes upgrades to electrical and plumbing systems, installation of a new HVAC system, updated restrooms and support spaces, a new terrace, new wayfinding and interpretive signage, ADA improvements in the parking lot and other site enhancements. Restoration of the masonry piers and wood pergola at Lookout Point will be included as optional bid components. The anticipated schedule for reissuing the project as a Competitive Sealed Proposal solicitation for construction is Spring 2024. The Architectural Development Division plans to reissue the Zilker Clubhouse Rehabilitation project for construction after other Department Capital Improvement Projects are under contract, including the Barton Springs Bathhouse Rehabilitation and the Elisabet Ney Museum Restoration, to get the best response from General Contractors with historic preservation experience. The funding for the rehabilitation of the Zilker Clubhouse is made possible through the Historic Preservation Fund which comes from Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) revenue to support projects and initiatives that meet allowable uses as defined under Chapter 351 of the Texas Tax Code. HOT revenue is an essential tool for the promotion of tourism and supports the growth of the tourism, convention, and hotel industry. The Department is an important partner in this effort as public parks, museums, and cultural centers are among the top tourist attractions in the City. **District 8**  
<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/zilker-clubhouse-rehabilitation>

**Zilker Eagle Train:** The tracks for the Zilker Eagle are currently undergoing maintenance and adjustment, with 90% of the track being adjusted thus far. The train coaches are being retrofitted with airbrakes, and are waiting on a few parts to arrive at the manufacturing plant to complete. Maintenance work along



the track is currently underway. A general permit exemption application has been submitted for needed maintenance work on the train bridge under Barton Springs Road. It is anticipated that this work will take approximately 30 days to complete once the permit is approved and the contractor mobilizes. Barring any unforeseen complications, the goal is to have the train entering the testing phase in late fall/early winter, with it opening to the public shortly thereafter. Austin Parks Foundation will continue to share monthly progress updates with the general public via its social media channels and the Zilker Eagle newsletter. **District 8**

**Tarrytown Neighborhood Park Playground Renovation:** Project completion is now expected in early November 2023. Prolonged material delays, due to playground vendor errors, have added 4 weeks to the project schedule. Staff will work with the contractor to ensure safety measures are in place for Halloween weekend and that completed portions of the sidewalk are open for use. The Project Team and Events staff are coordinating on a future ribbon-cutting event. **District 10**

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



*Recent photo of playground construction at Tarrytown Neighborhood Park*

## MAINTENANCE UPDATES:

### **Barton Springs Pool:**

- Repairs on the bathroom stalls in both the Women's and Men's are being made by Parks and Recreation Department employees.
- The grass revival project is still under way and is proving to be successful.
- Staff areas are being cleaned out in preparation for the future bathhouse renovation.

**District 5**

**Barton Springs Tree Removal:** As one of the most technically challenging tree removals that the Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) has ever undertaken, PAR Forestry staff removed the tree affectionally known as “Flo” on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Aside from the sadness of losing an iconic and historic tree and the extent of decay present, the project was implemented successfully. Crews used battery-powered chainsaws to perform work and replaced standard bar and chain oil with canola oil to minimize the use of petroleum products near the aquatic habitat of Barton Springs. Although much of the wood is compromised with decay, PAR will solicit proposals on how best to reuse the wood and engage the community as to opportunities to honor the tree’s memory. **District 8**

## PROGRAM UPDATES:

### District 1:

**National Night Out – Turner Roberts Recreation Center:** Turner-Roberts Recreation Center hosted their annual National Night Out Event, in partnership with Colony Park/Lakeside Neighborhood Association on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The event included 27 vendors that helped table the event from 7:00-8:00 p.m. and was free to the public. The event was held inside the facilities gymnasium and included food, resource tables, games, a bouncy house, and a DJ. The event had over 200 attendees.

**Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Class:** Turner-Roberts Recreation Center hosted its first ever Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) class graduation on October 6<sup>th</sup>. The program that is offered at the site in partnership with Austin Community College was offered at the site every day over the past three months and included 16 attendees who recently received their certification in HVAC maintenance.

**Annual National Night Out – Givens Recreation Center:** The Givens Recreation Center recently hosted its annual National Night Out event on Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The program was held in partnership with the celebration of the opening of the park’s new multi-purpose field. The site showcased their flag football clinic for youths 5-12 years of age, under the new field lights, and provided concessions, and community resources by supporting vendors. The event had over 150 attendees.



*Givens Recreation National Night Out and Multi-purpose Field Opening*

**Roots and Wings Festival:** The Conley Guerrero Senior Activity Center is co-hosting the Root and Wings Festival in partnership with Go Green on Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Join us for creek friendly gardening information, tree and plant giveaways, and more family friendly fun! The event is expected to be well attended by the community.



**C-day Camp – Delores Duffie:** On Monday October 9<sup>th</sup>, Delores Duffie offered C-day camp for out of school participants due to the school closure for Indigenous People Day. The program was held onsite from 7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. and required pre-enrollment. The event included Halloween arts and craft activities, the making of beaded corn, pumpkin patch dirt cups activities, and donut bobbing competition. 32 participants, ages 5-12, were enrolled for the event.

**Alamo Recreation Center – Paws and Pumpkins Event:** Alamo Recreation Center hosted its second annual Paws and Pumpkins on October 21<sup>st</sup> from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Paws and Pumpkins is an inclusive event for all ages, abilities, and pets. Activities include a costume contest, Halloween games, photo booth, pup cups, and more! The event was lots of fun and well-attended event.



*Paws and Pumpkins Attendees 2022*

**Oakwood Cemetery Chapel – An Unexpected Guide to Discovering Birds in Texas:** Oakwood collaborated with Cemetery Operations that included a bird walk and author talk by Jennifer L. Bristol in the Chapel. Approximately 30 people attended the event on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cemetery-birding-an-unexpected-guide-to-discovering-birds-in-texas-tickets-664672111177?aff=oddtcreator>



*Author Jennifer L. Bristol Presenting at the Chapel*

**Folklore Storytelling Workshop:** The Folklore Storytelling Workshop, drawing inspiration from the monsters, demons, and fantastical creatures from Filipino Folklore, was held at the Asian American Resource Center on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:00 p.m. The event was hosted in collaboration with Salvage Vanguard Theater and Filipina-American theater artist Megan Tabaque. This workshop centered around the sharing, adaptation, and preservation of personal family histories. Through a series of writing and story-making exercises, participants crafted folktales of their own design. Inspired by traditional stories, participants made space for the invention of new folklore, in doing so carved out new shapes of diasporic Asian American identities. There were about 30 attendees at the event.



*Folklore Storytelling Workshop Promotional Graphic*

**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Night Bazaar – Asian American Resource Center (AARC):** On Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30-9:30 p.m., the Asian American Resource Center campus will be transformed into a Night Bazaar featuring food & merchandise vendors, community organizations, activities, games, art exhibition, and music in recognition of the center's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This family friendly, outdoor event serves as an



opportunity for both first-time and longtime AARC-goers to come together in appreciation of our collective past while creating a shared vision for the future. Estimated Participants: 1,000.

**Pumpkin Carver Event:** The George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center hosted its annual Pumpkin Carver event on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> from 12:00-3:00 p.m. Attendance reached over 500, with an overwhelming response from community partners, volunteers, and schools reaching out to the museum. Families enjoyed a pumpkin carving contest, a costume contest, multiple hands-on art activities, games, story time in the garden, and so much more. This year, the Carver has partnered with the City of Austin's Roots and Wings Festival to help their mission to celebrate nature, learn about pollinators, and embrace connection to each other and local ecosystems in Austin neighborhoods! The Carver's annual Pumpkin Carver fall event is free and to open the public. [Pumpkin Carver 2023, 12PM | AustinTexas.gov](https://www.austintexas.gov/rootsandwings/fall)



*Austin Family Showcasing Their Pumpkins at the Pumpkin Carver*

**Murder, Mayhem, and Misadventure Tour:** Save Austin's Cemeteries presents its 17th annual Murder, Mayhem, and Misadventure Tour at Oakwood Cemetery on October 28th. Actors tell the stories of the harrowing ways early Austinites came to be buried at the cemetery. 45-minute tours begin at 10:00 am and run through 2:00 pm, with a golf cart available for visitors with accessibility needs. Approximately 300 people are expected to attend this free family event. <https://www.sachome.org/calendar>

**Alma y Corazon:** This free event takes place on *Día de Muertos*, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5:30-8:30 p.m., the date that our loved ones can return. The altar presentation and ceremony at Oakwood Cemetery on Day of the Dead features Mariana Nuño Ruiz, author of [Dining with the Dead](#), who will give a talk on the rich culinary traditions in Mexico that are associated with *Día de Muertos*. Guitar music is provided by [Javier Jara](#) and guests can enjoy complimentary hot chocolate and tamales while they share stories of their families. All are invited to pay respect to the individuals buried in Oakwood Cemetery to view the collective *ofrenda* (altar) by artist Alonso Estrada, made specifically for this site in loving memory of those who have passed. This event is expected to be well attended by the community. [Alma y Corazon at Oakwood Cemetery | AustinTexas.gov](#)

**Varsity Generation Partnership – Delores Duffie Recreation Center:** Delores Duffie recently began their Varsity generation partnership with Mendez Recreation Center’s Varsity Generation participants, with the ceramics program. The program at Mendez Recreation Center is hosted every Tuesday from 9:00-11:00 a.m. and is free for varsity generation attendees. Current attendance of the program is 10 seniors. The program will help promote the re-introduction of the Varsity Generation services at Delores Duffie Recreation Center that will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning October 10<sup>th</sup>.



*Delores Duffie Recreation Centers Varsity Generation Ceramics Class*

### **District 2:**

**Fall Soccer:** George Morales Dove Springs Recreation Center began its youth Fall soccer season on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. The league will consist of a five-game season with games occurring on Saturdays until October 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 107 participants are enrolled at the Dove Springs site and a total of 307 participants, 5-12 years of age, are enrolled in the South District.





*Fall Soccer Participants Engaged in League Game*

**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Onion Creek Floods:** The anniversary event will be commemorated with the unveiling of a mural created by artist Alonso Estrada in collaboration with some of the survivors of the floods. The unveiling will be marked with a ceremony in the Onion Creek Metropolitan Park, 6800 Onion Creek Drive, on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-11:00 a.m. The project was produced by the Dougherty Arts Center.

**Advocates Professional Golf Tour:** Jimmy Clay Golf Course hosted the Advocates Professional Golf Tour on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. 55 professional golfers of color played the two-day event for a purse of \$50,000. This is the first professional event the golf division has hosted since 1998. The Advocates Professional Golf Association was established in 2010 as a non-profit organization with the mission to bring greater diversity to the game of golf. The APGA Tour Board of Directors work to accomplish this by hosting and operating professional golf tournaments, player development programs, mentoring programs and by introducing the game to inner city youth.

### **District 3:**

**Halloween Carnival:** Mendez Recreation Center hosted their annual community Halloween Carnival and Haunted House on October 19<sup>th</sup>. The event was open to the public with a cost of \$0.25 per ticket. The event included free activities such as archery, vendor tables, game booths and various activities. Free popcorn and drinks were provided to the public at Metz Park along with activities inside Mendez Recreation Center. The event was well attended by the community.



**RODOLFO "RUDY" MENDEZ RECREATION CENTER**  
2407 CANTERBURY ST. 78702  
512-978-2399

**AUSTIN PARKS & RECREATION**  
*Cultural Places, Natural Spaces*

**CASH ONLY EVENT**  
**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

**COMMUNITY HALLOWEEN**  
*Carnival & Haunted House*

<b>6:00PM</b> TABLE GAMES, VENDORS & DOOR PRIZES.  TICKETS .25/EACH CASH ONLY.	<b>6:30-8:00PM</b> HAUNTED HOUSE FT. THE HUSTON-TILLOTSON WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM. ADMISSION: \$1.00	<b>7:30PM</b> COSTUME CONTEST 1ST - 3RD PLACE IN FOLLOWING AGE CATEGORIES: 0-3 4-6 7-9 10-12	<b>CONCESSIONS:</b> BRING CASH TO PURCHASE HOT DOG BUNDLE.  \$3.00 CASH ONLY.
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**THURSDAY OCT. 19, 2023 | 6:00-8:00PM** 

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. For assistance please contact (512) 974-3914 or Relay Texas 7-1-1.

*Mendez Recreation Center Community Halloween Event Flyer*

**Fall Annual Movie:** Mendez Recreation Center kicked off its Fall Annual Movie Under the Stars series on October 20<sup>th</sup>. The event, hosted every Friday in October beginning October 20<sup>th</sup>, will run every Friday through November 10<sup>th</sup>. The first movie was on October 20<sup>th</sup> and included Sony Pictures, Monster House. Movies will begin at dusk, approximately 7:00 p.m., and will include free popcorn and one free drink per person. Event attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, lawn blankets snacks and pups for the family friendly event that will remain free to the public in Metz Park. Expecting about 20 people to attend.



**RODOLFO "RUDY" MENDEZ RECREATION CENTER**  
2407 CANTERBURY ST. 78702 | 512-978-2399

**FALL 2023  
MOVIES UNDER  
THE STARS  
AT METZ PARK**



**FALL 2023 LINE-UP**

**OCT. 20 | MONSTER HOUSE**  
**OCT. 27 | HOCUS POCUS**  
**NOV. 3 | SUPER MARIO BROS MOVIE**  
**NOV. 10 | THE LITTLE GIANTS \***



Join us for another season of **FREE** outdoor movies at Metz Park!  
Movie begins at dusk (As soon as it gets dark).  
Feel free to bring lawn chairs, blankets, snacks and pups!  
No glass please.  
One free popcorn and drink per person at each showing.  
Please call ahead if inclement weather occurs.

For more information, please call 512-978-2399 or email [stephanie.martinez@austintexas.gov](mailto:stephanie.martinez@austintexas.gov)

\*Early movie time due to daylight savings ending

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. For assistance please contact (512) 974-3914 or Relay Texas 7-1-1.

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*Mendez Recreation Center Hosts Its Annual Fall  
Movies Under the Stars at Metz Park*

**Varsity Generation Program – Mendez Recreation Center:** The Mendez Recreation Center Varsity Generation Program recently began its Ranger Nature Hike activity on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The program includes Varsity Generation participants walking along the trails, with Mendez staff and Austin Park Rangers, as they explore the Austin Parks system. Participants are encouraged to ask questions, take photos and learn more about the natural and cultural resources within the park system. The first hike was held on September 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:00 a.m. and included two participants who joined on the first walk. During the month of October, the program will be held every other Monday. Two participants visited Red Bud aisle on October 9<sup>th</sup>.



*Mendez Varsity Generation Participants Park Ranger Walks Program*

**Pickleball Tournament:** Montopolis Recreation and Community Center hosted the first ever Pickleball Tournament. The tournament was a free event that brought in 10 teams. The event was on Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00-9:00 p.m.





*Tournament Winners with Their Prizes*

**Movie at the Park:** Montopolis Recreation and Community Center hosted an indoor Movie at the Park event on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Community members were able to bring picnics and enjoy a showing of “Super Mario Bro.” Around 40 community members attended.



*Montopolis Indoor Movie*

**National Night Out – Montopolis Recreation and Community Center:** Montopolis Recreation and Community Center hosted its National Night Out on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Community members were able to connect with each other and enjoy music, snacks and games. Around 140 community members attended.



*Community Members at National Night Out*

**C-day Camp – Oswaldo A.B. Cantu/Pan American Recreation Center:** On Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, Oswaldo A.B. Cantu/Pan American Recreation Center offered C-day Camp for out of school participants due to the school closure for Indigenous People Day. The program was held onsite from 7:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. and included arts and craft decorations for Halloween, cupcake decoration, and Halloween bingo.

**Community Halloween Carnival:** On Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, Oswaldo A.B. Cantu/Pan American Recreation Center hosted its annual Community Halloween Carnival. The event, free to the public, was held inside the facility gymnasium and included games, popcorn, candy and treats and a Halloween costume contest, as well as a few door prizes. 178 attendees at the event.



*Oswaldo A.B. Cantu/Pan American Recreation Center  
Hosted Its Annual Community Halloween Carnival*



**After-School Program at Parque Zaragoza:** Parque Zaragoza recently extended their after-school program services to include youth participants from University of Texas (UT) Elementary Charter School for children 5-12 years of age. The recent addition of the new school increased the overall enrollment of the program. Currently the site has received the enrollment of 12 participants from the UT Charter School increasing the overall enrollment of their after-school program to 36 participants.

**Pink Ribbons at the Krieg Athletic Complex:** To support breast cancer awareness for the month of October, the athletic maintenance team painted a 15-foot pink ribbon in the outfield of Field Six. Crew leaders not only create a beautiful art piece they also paint the foul lines and bases pink as well. Painting of the ribbons has been an annual tradition at Krieg for over 10 years by the athletic maintenance team. **District 3**



*Breast Cancer Awareness Month – Pink Ribbon Painted on Field*

**District 4:**

**Youth Co-Ed Soccer:** Gus Garcia Recreation Center held its first game day for the 2023 Fall Youth Co-Ed Soccer Program on September 30<sup>th</sup>. This season, Gus Garcia Recreation Center has successfully registered 81 participants – nearly double the enrollment numbers from one year ago.



*Teammates Go Over the Game Plan with Their Coach*

**Gus Garcia Recreation Center Master Chef Program:** On Saturday September 30<sup>th</sup>, Gus Garcia hosted a lovely dinner for the parents of its Master Chef participants. The menu items were chosen and fully prepared from scratch by participants and included appetizers, entrees, and dessert. Attendance records indicate 15 participants and their families attended.



*Table Decorations and Menu of Master Chef Finale Dinner*



**Gus Garcia Recreation Center Food Pantry:** Throughout September and October, Gus Garcia Recreation Center has partnered with local non-profit Karen Cares to host a free food pantry for the community. Food distribution occurs every Saturday from 12:00-2:00 p.m. Community attendance consistently exceeds over 100 families weekly. Community members are given produce, bread, pastries, snacks, and canned goods at no cost.



*A Look at the Line Sprawling All Throughout  
Gus Garcia Recreation Center for the Food Pantry*

**Virginia L. Brown Recreation Center's Varsity Generation:** The Varsity Generation group at Virginia L. Brown Recreation Center got competitive while bowling on a field trip at The Millenium on September 28<sup>th</sup>. They enjoyed cheering each other on and trying to figure out the best angles to try to knock down the most pins! 15 seniors from the Varsity Generation Program participated.



*Virginia L. Brown Varsity Generation Bowling at The Millenium*

**District 5:**

**Bringing Seniors Together – Halloween Spooktacluar:** The South Austin Senior Activity Center hosted the October “Bringing Seniors Together” event on Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. The event featured games, prizes, snacks, vendors, a costume contest, and Halloween karaoke. 125 participants attended from Recreation and Senior Centers across the city.

**District 6:**

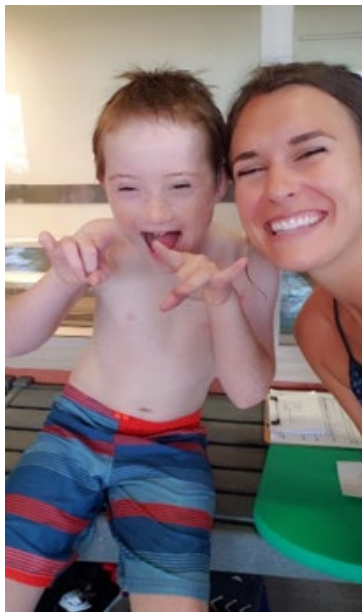
**Camp Day:** Pickfair Activity Center hosted a Camp Day on Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup> for youth ages 5-12. Camp Days are offered when school is out on non-City holidays. Participants enjoyed active play activities as well as craft activities. Eight participants were registered for the program.

**District 7:**

**Fall Fest:** Northwest Recreation Center will host Fall Fest, on October 31<sup>st</sup> from 4:00-6:00 p.m. The event is free for youth ages 5-12. Participants will enjoy carnival games with prizes, a bounce house, popcorn, and music. Estimated attendance is 150.

**District 8:**

**Special Olympics Fall Classic:** McBeth Recreation Center is proud to announce its participation in the upcoming Special Olympics Fall Classic competition, set to take place in College Station from October 19-21. 25 athletes will be competing in Golf, Aquatics and/or the softball tournament. Athletes are excited and have been working hard to prepare for this event to showcase their skills!



*McBeth Swimming Athletes*



**Roots & Wings Festival at The Austin Nature & Science Center:** As part of the annual city-wide Roots & Wings Festival, the Austin Nature & Science Center (ANSC) hosted a guest speaker from Bat Conservation International on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> who educated visitors on how bats roost in trees, presented a live bat from the ANSC animal collection, and conducted multiple bat-themed activities. The event was well attended by the community. On Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, the Bee City Committee and ANSC will partner with Two-Hives Honey to provide one-hour workshops where attendees will learn about the importance of native bees and what the community can do to protect local pollinators. The workshop will be followed by a family-friendly pollinator carnival from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This event is expected to be well attended.

**Animals After Dark at Austin Nature and Science Center:** Visitors can experience the Austin Nature and Science Center after dark on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-9:00 p.m. where they will learn about the center's nocturnal animals, take part in a guided night hike, and play glow-in-the-dark games. This is a free-admission event.

#### **District 9:**

**Hancock Recreation Center's Youth Soccer:** Fall Youth Soccer at Hancock Recreation Center has started. Hancock has four teams with a total of 39 youth enrolled. Practices began the week of September 18<sup>th</sup> and games started on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The event will continue until October 28<sup>th</sup>.



*Hancock's 6U Team Playing Against Northwest Recreation Center*

**Austin Food and Wine Festival:** Annual food and wine festive hosted at Auditorium Shores November 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. Event anticipates about 2,500 persons per day. [Austin Food & Wine Festival](#)

**Elisabet Ney Museum Re-Imagining the Ney – A night of Process:** On Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, audiences experienced Elisabet Ney's body of art and creative process in her very own historic art studio and home, *Formosa*. During this special after-hours event, attendees learned how Ney executed her sculptures through a live demo with University of Texas professor and artist Erin Cunningham. Guest artist Renee Lai led an artistic tour of Formosa through its unique points of view. An additional art activity was led by Museum education staff. The event was part of a five-event series, Re-Imagining the Ney. There were 52 attendees at the event.



*Artist Led Tour of the Museum Grounds with Guests*

**Susanna Dickinson Museum Texana at Twilight:** In collaboration with the French Legation Historic Site and Brush Square Museums Foundation presents “Texana at Twilight: Telling the Untold Tale.” An author talk featuring bestselling Texas novelist Sarah Bird. This event took place on October 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00-8:00 p.m. the French Legation Historic Site. There were about 60 attendees at the event.





*Author Sarah Bird with Her Dog*

**Austin Veteran Arts Festival Kickoff:** The Old Bakery & Emporium hosted a free Tai Chi class taught by Air Force Veteran David Pickens on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. David Pickens is the former National Chairman of Tai Chi and Kung Fu for the United States Amateur Athletic Union, as well as one of the founders of World Tai Chi Qigong Day in Central Texas. *The Veterans Suicide Prevention Choir* performed from 5:00-6:00 p.m. and was led by Reverend Dr. Ernest A. Benson in the park. There were 30 attendees at the event.

A poster for a free Tai Chi class. It features a photograph of an older man with a white beard, wearing a dark jacket and a beanie, in a Tai Chi pose. The background of the photo is a lush green landscape with a waterfall. The text on the poster includes: "Free TAI CHI CLASS", "Saturday, October 14th at 3 pm", "Old Bakery &amp; Emporium 1006 Congress Ave. Austin, TX 78701", and "Taught by David Pickens Founder of World Tai Chi Qigong Day in Central Texas". There are also logos for "Old Bakery &amp; Emporium", "AVAFEST", and "CAPRA" at the top.

*Free Tai Chi class Taught by Air Force Veteran David Pickens*

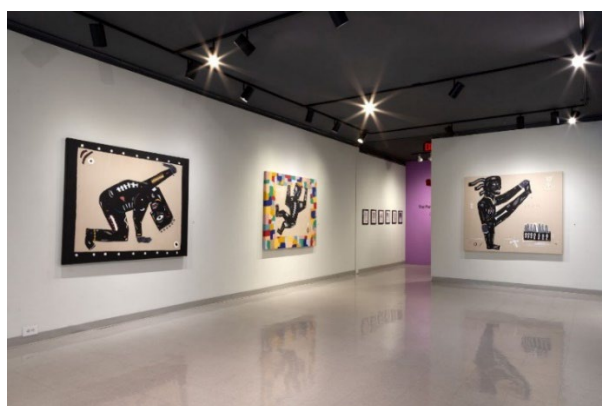
**Free Bilingual Story Time:** On Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-11:00 a.m., the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center (ESB MACC) Education Team paired up with Austin Public Library and Waterloo Greenway to provide free bilingual story time. The series, called “Morning Glories,” invited families with young children to gather in the beautiful tree deck of Waterloo Park and enjoy

programming designed for children 2-4 years old. On September 26<sup>th</sup>, they read out loud the children's book "El Gato Guapo" and were treated to a fun puppet show. There were 125 attendees at the event.



*The ESB MACC Partners with Morning Glories in Waterloo Park  
Photo by Homer Gonzales*

**Artist Reception for "Access," "The Parallax Project," and "Boxed In" – Dougherty Arts Center:** On Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. the exhibits "Access" by Neal Flynn, "The Parallax Project" by Zoe Pettit and "Boxed In" by Jacob Guzman held their opening reception. "Access" is a series of mostly new assemblage, collage, and site-specific interventions created from sourced materials that explore ideas relating to nostalgia, loss, violence, ownership, and modern Western culture. "The Parallax Project" is a series of illustrations that belong to an ongoing narrative of loosely assembled collections of moments, meaningful places, and introspective thoughts put to paper by a lonely robot living through an Apocalypse set on Mars. In "Boxed In" Jacob Guzman depicts people of color and aspects of daily inner-city working-class struggles, largely inspired by Guzman's personal experiences and resistance to stereotypes and comparisons. There were about 150 people at the event.

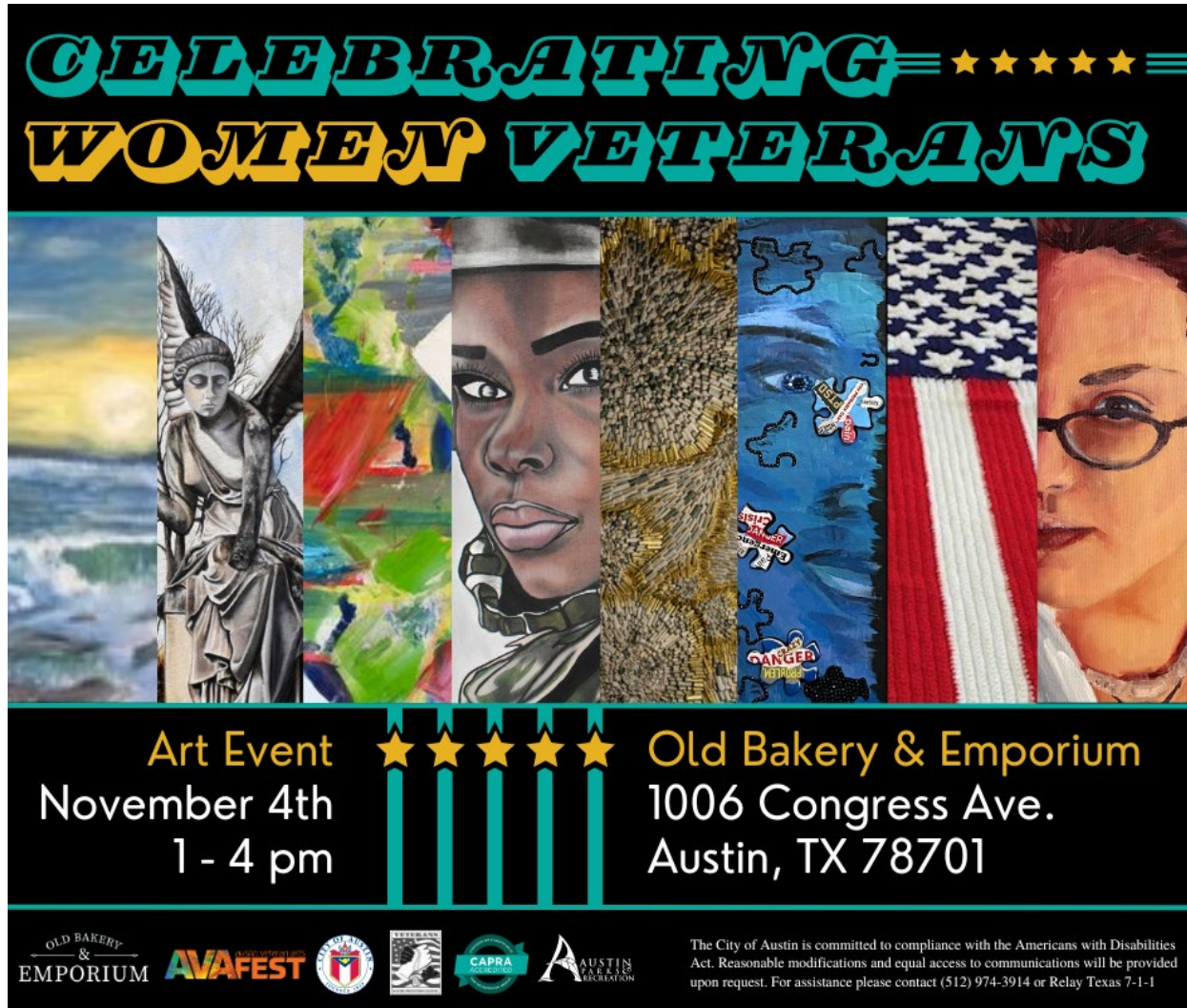


*Main Gallery Walls of the Julia C. Buttridge Gallery  
with Artwork by Jacob Guzman on View*

**"Celebrating Women Veterans" Art Exhibit and Opening:** The Old Bakery & Emporium has partnered with the Austin Veteran Artist Festival for an art exhibition entitled "Celebrating Women Veterans." The exhibition will open on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, and will be marked by an opening reception from 1:00-4:00 p.m. The exhibit features the work of eight unique Austin women artists who are military



veterans. This special art exhibit celebrates the 75th Anniversary of the Women's Armed Forces Integration Act, which allowed women to become permanent, regular members of the US armed forces in 1948. [Link to RSVP](#) (for free)



**CELEBRATING  
WOMEN VETERANS**

Art Event  
November 4th  
1 - 4 pm

Old Bakery & Emporium  
1006 Congress Ave.  
Austin, TX 78701

OLD BAKERY & EMPORIUM AVAFEST CAPRA ACCREDITED AUSTIN PARKS & RECREATION

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. For assistance please contact (512) 974-3914 or Relay Texas 7-1-1

*Celebrating Women Veterans Flyer*

#### **Multiple Districts:**

**Fall Soccer League:** The Central area sites to include Oswaldo A.B. Cantu/Pan American, Turner-Roberts, Delores Duffie, Parque Zaragoza, Givens and Mendez Recreation Centers recently began their Fall Soccer league. The program, held each Saturday, includes supporting teams from each site in age groups 3-12 years of age began Saturday September 13<sup>th</sup>. The program will be held until October 28<sup>th</sup> and is held every Saturday morning on the newly renovated Martin Fields from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Current enrollment for the program includes over 90 participants ages 3-12 and requires pre-enrollment.

#### **Districts 1, 3**

**National Night Out – Dittmar Recreation Center:** On Tuesday October 3<sup>rd</sup> Dittmar Recreation Center hosted its annual National Night Out from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Over 250 community members were in attendance to enjoy fun games and food and a visit from the local police department. **Districts 2, 5**

**Dittmar Recreation Center Paw-tacular:** Dittmar Recreation Center hosted its first ever Paw-tacular event on October 6<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30 p.m. Community members were able to bring their four-legged friends to enjoy games and crafts. The event had over 60 people in attendance and around 40 dogs. **Districts 2, 5**



*Dittmar Paw-tacular 2023*

**TEMPO on the Butler Trail:** The Trail Conservancy is collaborating with the City of Austin's Art in Public Places program and the Department to curate a remarkable temporary art exhibition on the Trail, slated for 2024-2025. The intent for the TEMPO temporary public art program is to promote tourism, cultivate curiosity, spark imagination, engage the community, foster work by local artists, and cultivate exploration of the city of Austin. The program is searching for 8 exceptionally talented artists or artist teams to help transform this vision into reality. A virtual open house info session was held on October 5<sup>th</sup> and the application deadline was October 16<sup>th</sup>. [More info can be found on the webpage.](#)

**Districts 3, 5, 8, 9, 10**

**Shoreline Stewardship Volunteer Events:** The partnership between Watershed Protection and The Trail Conservancy (TTC) for the Lady Bird Lake shoreline began in 2015 and was built upon extensive and ongoing work championed by the TTC conservation team. The weekly volunteer program builds upon the principles of restoring and enhancing plant communities, repairing and improving ecological function, creating resiliency, enhancing the trail user experience, and facilitating stewardship. TTC hosted 17 Shoreline Stewardship events from January – July in 2023, engaging 335 volunteers for invasive species management, floodplain restoration and land management, and floodplain



stewardship. The program resumed in September with 11 more events planned through the end of the year. All events are listed [on their volunteer page](#). **Districts 3, 5, 8, 9, 10**

**Pre-K Sports:** Pre-K Sports has resumed with 10 participants at South Austin Recreation Center. This instructor led program is great for parents and children to begin exposure to sports. Each week a new sport is covered, basketball, baseball, football and soccer. Classes are held on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. The five-week session runs from September 20<sup>th</sup>-October 18<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, the Pickleball boom is not just for adults. This Out of School Time program has 10 participants ages 8-12. The program teaches players the rules and skills of the new craze. 11 registered for pre-K sports. The Youth Pickleball Clinic will be held on Wednesdays, September 27<sup>th</sup>-October 25<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m. and has 11 players registered. **Districts 3, 5**



*Youth Pickleball Clinic Participants Getting Warmed Up*



*Parents and Kids Playing Soccer in PreK Sports*

## ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES:

**Nature Everywhere:** The Children & Nature Network (C&NN) is launching its new initiative, [Nature Everywhere](#), by hosting a 3-day Vision Lab in Austin on November 1-3. Teams from 19 communities across the United States will attend to learn more about creating equitable access to nature in their communities. The focus will be on creating cross-sector partnerships and collaboration so teams can advance systems change in their local communities. Visits to a green schoolyard, an early childhood site, and the Nature Smart Library in Austin will showcase example strategies that advance access to nature and climate resilience. Following the Vision Lab, teams will continue their participation in C&NN technical assistance and peer learning for a 2-year period.

**Branding:** The GolfATX logo was successfully registered with the Office of the Secretary of the State of Texas. This officially trademarks the ATX logo as proprietary property of the City of Austin and may not be reproduced, sold, or marketed without the explicit approval from the City. **Districts 1, 2, 8, 9 and 10**

**Homelessness Response Team Updates:** The Austin Parks and Recreation Department welcomed Raven Rojas as the new Environmental Program Coordinator and Lindsey Watson as the new Community Services Coordinator, both for the Community Services/Homelessness Response Unit. Raven Rojas brings experience from her previous position as the Community Services Program Manager in the same unit, and Lindsey Watson brings great skills and knowledge as a previous seasonal Park Ranger and paramedic.

- Number of 311 calls related to homelessness on parkland in September: 344
- Number of fires reported from AFD in September: 23
- Number of TOOF (The Other One's Foundation) site visits for trash abatement in September: 50
- Volume of trash collected by TOOF in September: 27,550 pounds

**FTA 5310 Senior Transportation Grant:** At the September 21, 2023, regular meeting, Council approved acceptance of \$347,625 in grant funding from the Federal Transit Administration 5310 Senior Transportation grant program. Funding will be used to offset costs for the PARD Senior Transportation Program, which provides rides to congregate meal locations, door-to-door trips to requested destinations, and group travel. The funding will reimburse payroll costs for seven drivers and a dispatcher, as well as vehicle maintenance and fuel costs.

**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/answer sessions and vendor system demonstrations. Current user organizations participated in these sessions between September and October 2021. Based on the information gathered, the Department worked with CTM to establish a scope of work (SOW) and conduct a formal solicitation for a 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 facilitated the competitive process, which included establishing a CTM project manager and creating a timeline for the solicitation. In October 2022, the Department began working with a CTM project manager to establish a timeline and deliverables for the scope of work. The solicitation was published on June 5<sup>th</sup> and was extended and closed on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Six proposals were received, and all proposals were deemed responsive. The evaluation process, led by



Central Procurement, is still in process. The Department will continue to utilize RecTrac services throughout the solicitation process until a recommended vendor is established.

**Zilker Café:** 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 were due by July 25<sup>th</sup>, following a two-week response extension. One responsive proposal was received, and Central Procurement conducted the evaluation process. In October, PARD agreed to move forward with the evaluated vendor, Colleens Kitchen LLC. If negotiations between Central Procurement and Colleens Kitchen are successful, PARD will present the recommendation for Council award to the Contracts and Concessions Committee and Parks and Recreation Board in November.

**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> and was approved by the Parks and Recreation Board on June 26<sup>th</sup>, and subsequently approved by Council on July 20<sup>th</sup>. At the September 21<sup>st</sup>, regular meeting, AISD Board of Trustees approved the interlocal agreement between the City of Austin and the Austin Independent School District for SwimATX. The City is waiting for the signed contract from AISD in order to proceed with the contract execution.