

Request for New  
Special Use  
Seniors Building

# Gustavo “Gus” Garcia Recreation Center





In the U.S., around 10,000 baby boomers are turning 65 today and every day for over the next 15 years. Austin, Texas Senior Guide

At first glance, my reaction was mild to say the least. But, then I thought– *that includes my three grown children ages 63, 61, and 53.*

**So, let us make this simple statement personal. Does that include:**

1. You
2. Your parents
3. Your grandparents

**Moreover, will it affect your life directly or indirectly?**

1. In your job
2. In your children's education
3. Places you frequent for fun/entertainment
4. Places you shop
5. Or, even your thought process when considering avenues to follow as a member of a board or commission

According to *Vintage 2022 Population*, the US's median age grew by 0.2 years between 2021 and 2022. That makes the median age 38.9 years which is pretty close to 40. The Population of Texas in 2021 was 29.53 million, and in 2022 30+ million. Persons 65 and over constituted 13.2%, a little over 4 million. In Texas the number of people 65+ is expected to more than double to 8.3 million by 2050.

## Key Austin Senior Statistics

8% of Austin's population is seniors

29% of those Austin seniors live alone

6% of Austin senior households have an annual income of less than \$10k

19% have less than \$20k

15% of over age 60 residents received food stamps last year

Average social security income is \$16,538 dollars per year.

Median household income for an Austin senior is \$47,993.

There are 12,060 working seniors in Austin.

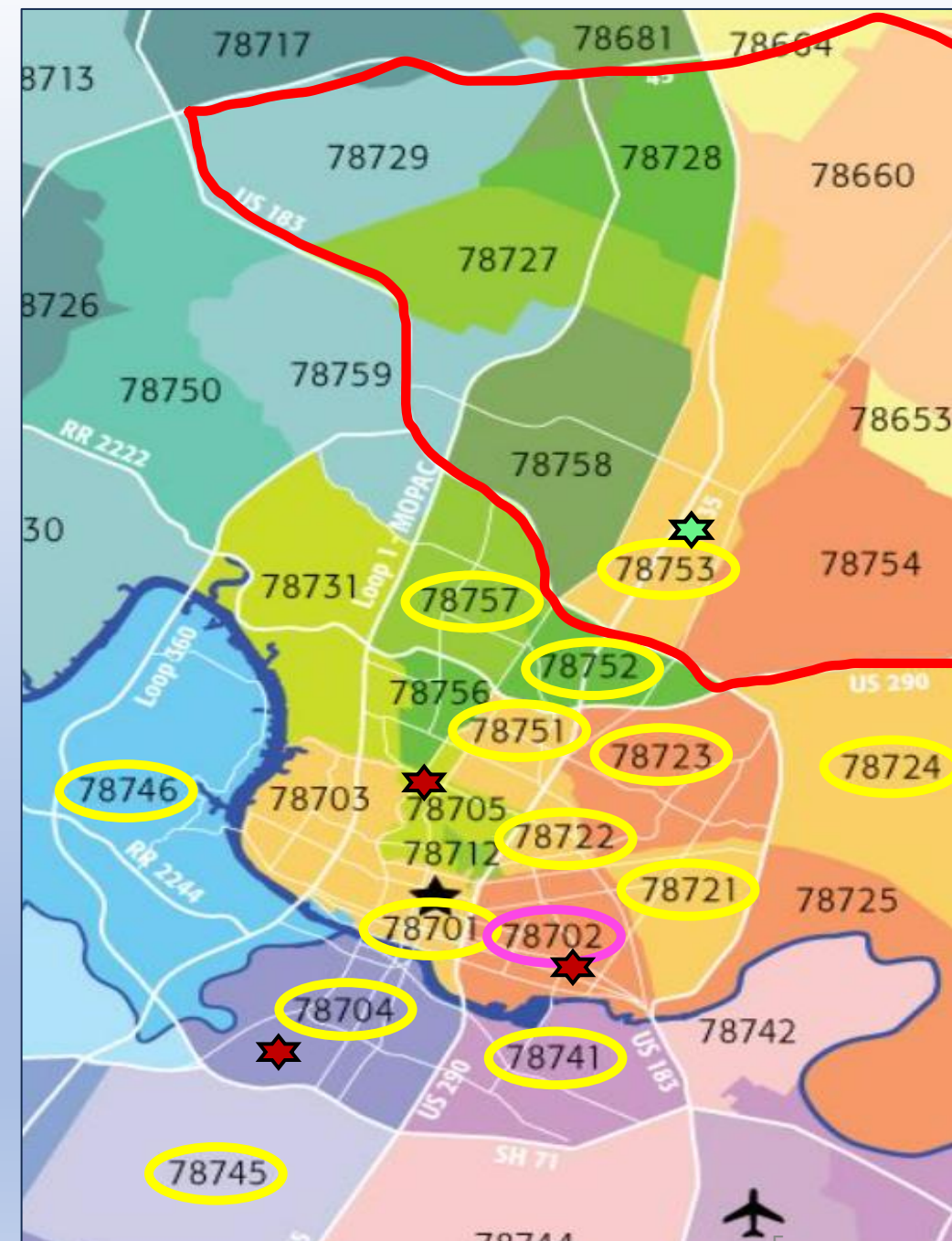





This picture is included for each of you to have a reference point for the following three pages

# Community Recreation & Senior Activity Centers By Zip Code

- ★ Garcia Recreation Center & Park  
Only Recreation Center North Of 290 & East Of 183 (City Council Districts 1, 4, 6 & 7)
- ★ Senior Activity Centers – Special Use
- Yellow = Zip Code With 1 Multi-use Recreation Center
- Pink = Zip Code With 5 Multi-use Recreation Centers
- Red = Boundaries for Highways 290, 183, 45, and 130





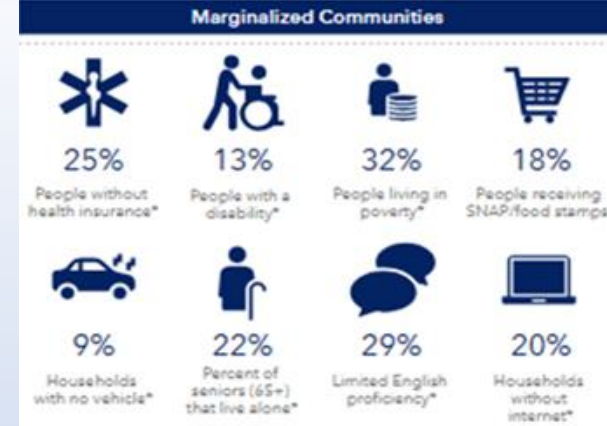
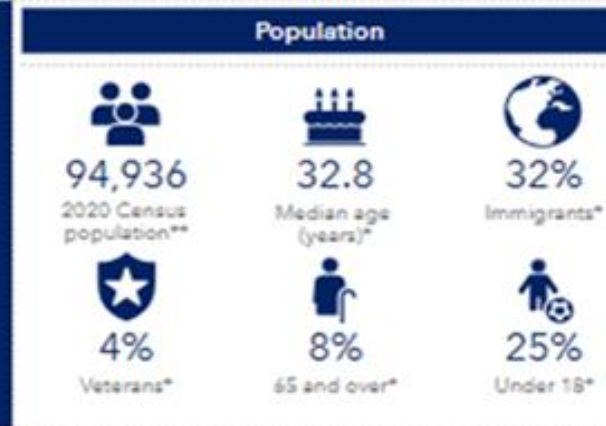


Council District


**4**

**Council District  
Demographic Profiles**

City of Austin  
Planning Department  
Strategic Data Initiatives



Gus Garcia is located  
In District 4

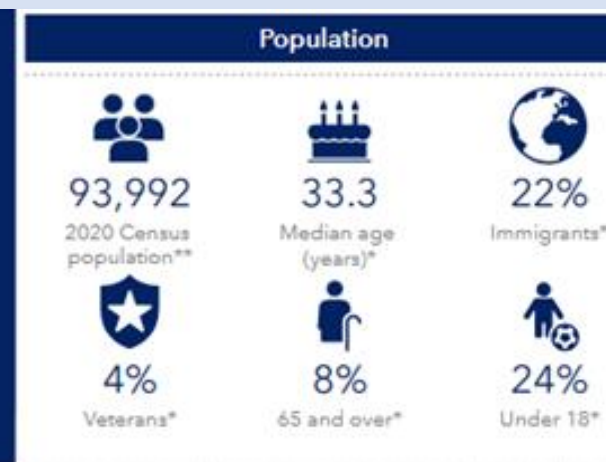


Council District


**1**

**Council District  
Demographic Profiles**

City of Austin  
Planning Department  
Strategic Data Initiatives



Neighboring districts  
Are 1 & 7

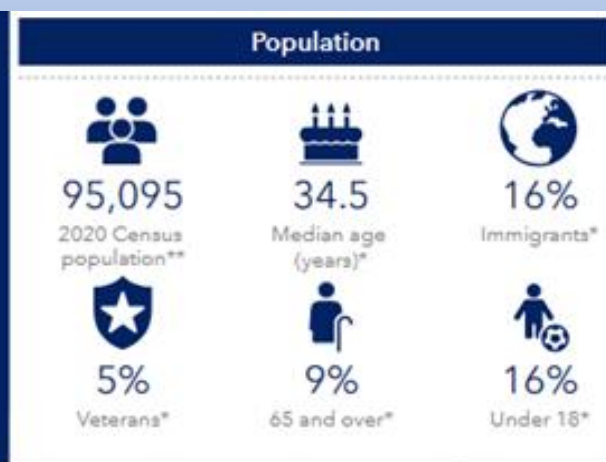


Council District

**7**

**Council District  
Demographic Profiles**

City of Austin  
Planning Department  
Strategic Data Initiatives



# Demographic Profile

	District 4		District 1		District 7	
District population	94,936		93,992		95,095	
Total Numbers	Population Percentage	Total Number	Population Percentage	Total Number	Population Percentage	Total Number
Senior (65+) population	8%	7,595	8%	7,519	9%	8,559
Percentage of Seniors living alone	22%	1,671	22%	1,654	16%	1,369
Immigrant population	32%	30,380	22%	20,678	16%	15,215
Population living low/moderate income	74%	70,253	63%	59,215	41%	38,989

Most current (2021) data from CoA Housing & Planning – Council District Demographic Profiles

Adding together the three districts' senior populations amounts to 23,673.

Adding together the three districts' seniors living alone amounts to 4,694.

Total immigrant populations added together are 110,173.

Total populations living in low/moderate income ranges added together are 168,447\*.

\*important within this underserved area of Northeast Austin.



# Garcia Recreation Center Sits On 47 Acres

## ~20,000 Sq Ft Building

**After School & Teen Programs** – These Populations Are Mainly Served 1PM – 5PM on Weekdays.

**Summer Day Care** – 8AM-5PM - 90% Of The Facility Is Used For This Population's Programs During Summer

**Adult Under 55 Program** – 11AM – 6PM - Scheduled as space permits

**Senior Programs Including Seniorcise** – 9AM To 1PM - Seniorcise Scheduled three times a week.  
Senior Programs scheduled as space permits.  
Senior Programs extremely limited in Summer.

**Seniorcise! – *15 Years Strong!***

**Meals-on-Wheels Weekday Lunch Location; Austin Food Pantry Monthly Distribution Site**

**Carol's Kindness on Saturdays**



# WE ARE GETTING CRAMPED!!!

Year to Date Program Participant Attendance		2019	2020	2021	2022	*2023 Yr to Date
Youth Programs	10 weeks Summer Camps	417	0	148	438	734
	Afterschool and holiday camps	222	88	259	399	618
	Gus Garcia Winter Camp	250	0	138	198	108
	Spring Break Camp at GGRC	23	19	0	23	24
	NEW Youth out of school time Programs				364	404
Totals		912	107	545	1,422	1,888
Youth Sports	Youth Soccer	131	43	42	67	133
	Youth Basketball	160	0	0	108	120
Totals		291	43	42	175	253
Teens Programs	Teen afterschool	75	0	0	120	548
	Teen Summer camp	107	0	45	73	178
	Totally Cool Totally Art	75	0	0	100	120
	NEW Youth out of school time Programs					525
Totals		257	0	45	293	1,371
Adult Programs	Drop ins, Open Gym, Mixfit, NEW Pickleball, Volleyball	1,775	2,789	226	8473	12,633
	Totals	1,775	2,789	226	8,473	12,633
Senior Programs	Seniorcise, Tai Chi, Bible studies, Ping Pong, Art, Dance, Sewing, Golden Rollers, BINGO, Meals on Wheels,	1,351	2,006	562	1190	5,341
	Totals	1,351	2,006	562	1,190	5,341

Significant Increase In Center  
Usage Over 2019  
Pre-pandemic Numbers

Adult Programs Participation  
Has Increased Exponentially  
Over Pre-pandemic Numbers

Senior Program Participation  
Has Seen A Significant Increase  
since recovery from Pandemic.

Additional: Food Pantry,  
Community Projects, Go  
Project, which include all ages  
**1480+**

\* NOTE: Numbers are year to date

# Gus Garcia Center's program participation and general usage numbers have significantly increased since the 2019 numbers.

Teen participation alone is 161% over Pre-Pandemic attendance.

With the inclusion of **NEW** adult programs participation has increased.

**NEW** teen programs have proven to encourage participants' steadily increased attendance.

Senior programs have rebounded from the Pandemic numbers and are increasing steadily.

Our facility is booming. Some days the seniors have barely cleared out from exercise before adult pickleball players are setting up their court.

New programs that have been truly needed further limit the already tight space available for Senior enrichment programs.





When Comparing Our Facility Amenities With Those Of Other Senior Activity Centers, We See A Huge Disparity In The Space Afforded Our Seniors.

Gus Garcia Seniors Have

- No Permanently Dedicated Space Allotted For Enrichment Activities.
- Seasonally Dependent Space Availability
- No Secured Storage For Materials/Supplies For Classes/Programs.
- A Strong Need For Seniors Only Building

# Senior Population Trend

Is this a permanent trend, or a trend such as the hula hoop?

The numbers presented thus far demonstrate the increasing number of seniors nationally, statewide, and within council districts in Austin. It would seem from these numbers that this trend towards senior population growth is with us for an extended period.

At this period of time in Northeast Austin we feel strongly that growth in our senior population will require serious consideration and continued service for at least the next 25 years\*.

Currently the senior population of the United States is 55 million. Further, seniors moving to Texas frequently choose Austin as their primary choice. New breakthroughs in health coverage mean more seniors will live longer lives. In Council Districts 4, 1, & 7, the largest population figures for all ages are individuals between 25-34. Which normally would mean youngsters who grow up and eventually keep the senior population reinforced.

\*Between 1958 and 2023, US Population grew by 40 million.



# Productive Senior Population

To maintain a healthy senior individual, varied studies have produced lists of activities which are important to seniors.

1. Exercise for aging individuals is essential for vitality\*<sup>1</sup>
2. In order to maintain healthier blood pressure and blood sugar levels, seniors need to eat a high nutrition diet.\*<sup>2</sup>
3. Older adults need to connect every day with others\*<sup>3</sup>
4. Challenging mental interactions through group activities enhance rapid brain communication.\*<sup>4</sup>

Healthy active seniors make for a productive community and city.

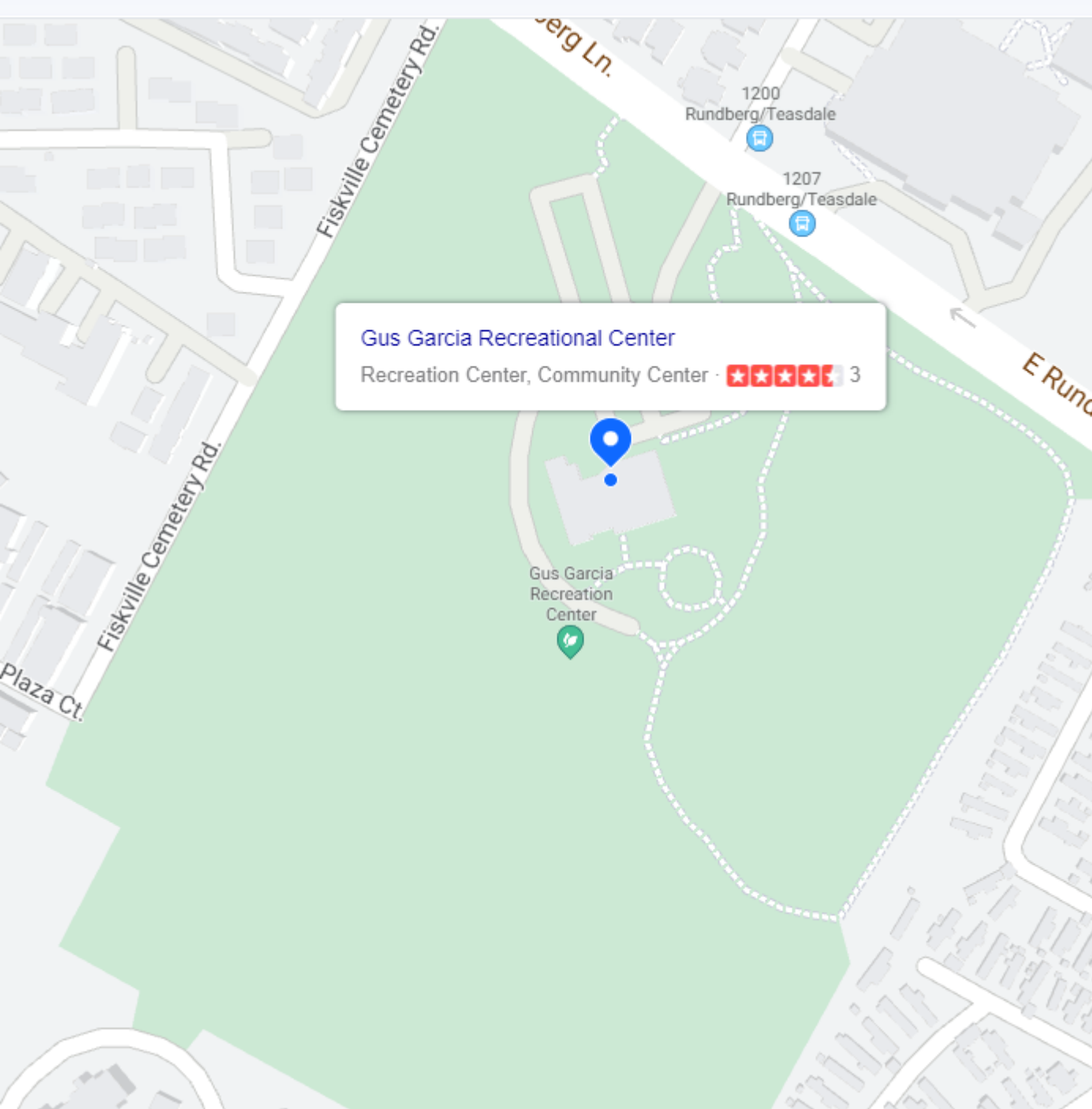


# Senior Activity Centers Provide

- A space for seniors to enjoy activities safely and socialize comfortably.
- Easy Access to Health & Wellness classes, meals, nutrition plans, and programs that teach participants how to manage and delay the onset of chronic disease.
- Senior Activity centers provide a place for friendship and companionship (The most important of all).\*

\*Matthew McConaughey, in *Austin Statesman*





## Map of Gus Garcia Recreation Center and Park

Gus Garcia Seniors would sincerely appreciate your positive support in having a senior special use building built on this park land.



# Enjoying Terrific Park and Recreation Services



How many more individuals could have these benefits?



# Gus Garcia Seniors Request Your Support

We would greatly appreciate you

- Positively Considering our Request for a Senior Building
- Positively Responding In Our Favor When Reporting To City Council

Thank You!