LONG RANGE PLAN COMMUNITY MEETING SERIES #1
OUR PARKS, OUR FUTURE
AUSTIN PARKS & RECREATION

WELCOME! BIENVENIDO!

GOALS

CREATE A VISION FOR AUSTIN'S PARK SYSTEM IN 2028
This effort will focus on engaging the community and City staff to define a new vision that is both inspirational and achievable.

GUIDE FUTURE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT
As Austin continues to grow and change, the Long Range Plan will provide a useful analysis and guidebook for how and where to invest to ensure a world-class park system.

DEVELOP STRATEGIES, ACTIONS, AND PRIORITIES
The Long Range Plan will provide strategic guidance and priorities to inform the Capital Improvement Program and development of Park Master Plans.

GUIDED METAS

CREATE A VISION FOR AUSTIN'S PARK SYSTEM IN 2028
- Engage Community & City staff
- Define a new vision

GUIDE FUTURE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT
- Provide useful analysis
- Guide investment

DEVELOP STRATEGIES, ACTIONS, AND PRIORITIES
- Provide strategic guidance
- Prioritize investments

WELCOME! BIENVENIDO!

AUSTIN PARKS & RECREATION
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#austinfutureparks

IN COLLABORATION WITH:
ADOA COMMUNICATIONS, CE DÉCOUVRIR, STEVE BUELLINGER, PAUL CONSOLIÈRE, THE FOUNDATION FOR PUBLIC CLARITY, INC.
This section considers the growth of the park system over time giving special attention to the phases and critical moments within the system’s evolution to the present day. Looking to the past provides a way to contextualize current conditions and positioning the Parks and Recreation Department to strategically build from its roots and cultivate a stronger park system that speaks to the unique desires and needs of present-day Austin.

**PHASES**

1839-1920 Sporadic Emergence of Core Structure

- Originally just common land, over the period 1840-1920 these squares are gradually developed into four historic city squares, which form the core of Austin’s park system.

1920-1940 Systematic Investment + Federal Aid

- The Federal Aid programs that followed the Great Depression had a major impact on shaping and expanding Austin’s park system. The Federal Aid to Parks and Playgrounds Act of 1938, for example, provided funding for city and state parks. In 1938, Austin received $68,750 to help develop parks in the city.

1940-1970 Active Recreation + Cultural Focus

- The city invests in a wide array of pools, fields, and athletic facilities. Alongside these active recreation facilities, the city invests in the creation of several botanical and cultural gardens.

1970-2017 Consolidation, Greenbelts + Parks, Playgrounds, and Boulevards Bond

- This period has several large-scale acquisitions of sites previously owned and managed by private entities, as well as acquisitions of public lands. This period includes the acquisition of the Zilker Nature Preserve in 1971.

- In the 2000s, the city continued to acquire and develop parkland, including the acquisition of the Decker Tallgrass Prairie Reserve in 2004.

**INITIAL TAKEAWAYS**

From its beginnings as four city squares sketched on Austin’s original plat, the park system has expanded and evolved over time, with an increasing focus on preserving and protecting cultural resources, as well as natural resources. The early 1900s saw the consistent expansion of the system through donations and acquisitions followed by the City of Austin’s first Parks, Playground, and Boulevards Bond in 1929. The Federal Aid programs that followed the Great Depression had a major impact on shaping and expanding Austin’s park system, as did the ongoing growth in population and developed area. The park system grew through both opportunistic and systematic efforts based on the norms and resources available at the time. In recent years, the park system has come to embrace natural and cultural resources as two mutually reinforcing elements in Austin’s parks.
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OUR PARKS, OUR FUTURE
NUESTROS PARQUES, NUESTRO FUTURO
AUSTIN PARKS & RECREATION

OUR PARK SYSTEM TODAY
NUESTRO SISTEMA DE PARQUES HOY EN DIA

18,600+ ACRES OF PARKLAND
967,000 2018 POPULATION
1,143M 2030 POPULATION
14 DIVISIONS
2700+ FULL-TIME
& 1,000+ PT & SEASONAL

OUR PARK SYSTEM, BY THE NUMBERS
NUESTRO SISTEMA DE PARQUES EN NUMEROS

100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
OF PARD (2028)

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IN COLLABORATION WITH:
AIDS COMMUNICATIONS, IS COLLABORATIVE, STAGE BUILDING.
PARKS CONSULTING; THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND; ETIC INSTITUTE

PARK RECREATION/COMMUNITY CENTERS
- Ranch Austin Community Recreation Center
- North Athens Community Recreation Center
- South Austin Recreation Center
- Northwest Recreation Center
- South Park Recreation Center
- South East Recreation Center
- South Central Recreation Center
- Northeast Recreation Center
- Central Park Recreation Center
- Community Services

MUSEUMS, ARTS & CULTURAL CENTERS
- City of Austin
- Austin Museum of Art
- Austin Central Library
- Austin Public Library
- Austin History Center
- Austin Children’s Museum
- Austin Public Library
- Austin Public Library

OFF-LEASH DOG AREAS
- City of Austin
- Austin Central Park
- Austin Public Library
- Austin Public Library

COMMUNITY/SENIOR GARDENS
- City of Austin
- Austin Central Park
- Austin Public Library
- Austin Public Library

PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS
- City of Austin
- Austin Central Park
- Austin Public Library
- Austin Public Library

PLAYGROUNDS
- City of Austin
- Austin Central Park
- Austin Public Library
- Austin Public Library

STAGES/AMPHITHEATERS
- City of Austin
- Austin Central Park
- Austin Public Library
- Austin Public Library

HISTORIC BUILDINGS
- City of Austin
- Austin Central Park
- Austin Public Library
- Austin Public Library

RECREATION CENTERS
- City of Austin
- Austin Central Park
- Austin Public Library
- Austin Public Library

SUNDAY FIELDS
- City of Austin
- Austin Central Park
- Austin Public Library
- Austin Public Library

PARKS TRAIL MILES
- City of Austin
- Austin Central Park
- Austin Public Library
- Austin Public Library

TENNIS COURTS
- City of Austin
- Austin Central Park
- Austin Public Library
- Austin Public Library

VOLLEYBALL COURTS
- City of Austin
- Austin Central Park
- Austin Public Library
- Austin Public Library

CEMeteries
- City of Austin
- Austin Central Park
- Austin Public Library
- Austin Public Library

FACILITIES/CONSTRUCTION
- City of Austin
- Austin Central Park
- Austin Public Library
- Austin Public Library

POLITICAL BOUNDARIES
- City of Austin
- Capital Metro
- County
- Texas
- United States

TEMPORARY WATER FEATURES
- City of Austin
- Austin Central Park
- Austin Public Library
- Austin Public Library

AUSTIN PARKS & RECREATION 2018-2021
1.143M 2030 POPULATION
100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
OF PARD (2028)

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Our Parks, Our Future
Nuestros Parques, Nuestro Futuro

People & Parks
Gente y Parques

Population Density and Growth
Densidad de Población

Developed Land is Increasing
Developed Austin has helped to focus and direct new growth into parks, and the city continues to spread out as population in surrounding counties and cities increases.

Need for Parkland on the Rise
As Austin’s population and economy continue to grow, the demand for park space and recreational facilities is increasing as well. PARD manages over 300 parks, 26 recreation and senior centers, and a range of facilities including: natural areas, pools, splash pads, tennis courts, soccer fields, and playgrounds.

Distance to Parks
(1/4 - 1/2 Mile)
Distance a Los Parques

Improving Parkland Access
In 2016, City Council set a goal of providing parkland within 1/4 mile of Urban Core residents and 1/2 mile for those outside of the Urban Core. As the city’s rapid population growth continues, the City of Austin struggles to keep up with the 24 park-acres/1,000 residents standard.

Population Within Walking Distance of Parks Increasing but Still Below City’s Goal
Currently, 67% of Austin residents are within walking distance to a park, a significant increase from 2011.

Keeping Up with Growth
First passed in 1985, the City of Austin’s Parkland Dedication Ordinance was revised in 2016 to add hotel/motel fees in addition to new residential. In 2016, Park Planning acquired 66 acres of new parkland.

Our City Today, by the Numbers
Nuestra Ciudad Hoy en Numeros

67% of residents are within walking distance of a park
$81,400 median family income in 2017
Sidewalk coverage increased from 43% to 52% between 2013 & 2017
50 sq miles of area has been developed between 2008 & 2016

68% of new development has been in the city’s activity centers & corridors (since 2012)
68% of residents are within walking distance of a park

In collaboration with
AODA, Companionship, OEP, Development, Studio Austin, LPA, Inc., and Consulting, The Trust for Public Land, and ETC Institute
WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE PARK? *(BONUS: WHAT TYPE OF PARK IS IT?)*

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT AUSTIN PARKS?

WHAT DOES THE AUSTIN PARK SYSTEM DO WELL?

HOW CAN THE AUSTIN PARK SYSTEM IMPROVE?
HOW FAR ARE YOU WILLING TO TRAVEL TO PARKS?
¿QUÉ TAN LEJOS ESTÁS DISPUESTO A TRASLADARTE PARA IR A LOS PARQUES?
USE THE DOT STICKER.
USAR LA ETIQUETA DE PUNTO.

WHAT WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO WALK OR BIKE TO PARKS?
¿QUE LE ANIMARÍA A CAMINAR O ANDAR EN BICICLETA A LOS PARQUES?
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WHICH FACILITY TYPES ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?
¿QUE TIPOS DE INSTALACIONES SON LAS MÁS IMPORTANTES PARA USTED?

HOW COULD OUR FACILITIES BETTER SERVE YOU?
¿CÓMO PODRÍAN NUESTRAS INSTALACIONES SERVIRLE MEJOR?

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AUSTIN PARKS & RECREATION
2018 - 2024
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IN COLLABORATION WITH:
AECOM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, EDDIE BULGHOUL, THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND, ETC. INSTITUTE
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PROGRAM PRIORITIES
PROGRAMAS PRIORITARIOS

WHICH PROGRAMS ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?
¿QUE PROGRAMAS SON LOS MÁS IMPORTANTES PARA USTED?

USE THE DOT STICKER.
USAR LA ETIQUETA DE PUNTO.

ADULT SPORTS | DEPORTE PARA ADULTOS
AQUATICS | ACUÁTICOS
ARTS & CULTURE | ARTE Y CULTURA
ENRICHMENT / LIFE SKILLS PROGRAMS | PROGRAMAS DE ENTRENAMIENTO Y ENRIQUECIMIENTO
YOUTH SPORTS | DEPORTE PARA JóVENES
SPECIAL EVENTS | EVENTOS ESPECIALES
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION / INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS | EDUCACIÓN AMBIENTAL / PROGRAMAS INTERPRETATIVOS
HEALTH & FITNESS | SALUD Y ACONDICIONAMIENTO FÍSICO
OUTDOOR RECREATION | RECREACIÓN AL AIRE LIBRE
FACILITY RENTALS FOR PRIVATE EVENTS | ALQUILER DE INSTALACIONES PARA EVENTOS PRIVADOS
ADAPTED / THERAPEUTIC RECREATION | RECREACIÓN TERAPÉUTICA / ADAPTADO
SENIOR PROGRAMS & SERVICES | PROGRAMAS Y SERVICIOS PARA GENTE MAYOR
GYM RENTALS | GIMNASIO DE ALQUILER
ATHLETIC FIELD RENTALS | CAMPOS ATLÉTICOS DE ALQUILER
STEWARDSHIP SERVICES (ADOPT-A-PARK / TRAIL) | SERVICIOS DE ADMINISTRACIÓN (ADOPTA UN PARQUE O SENDERO)

WHAT PROGRAMS ARE MISSING OR NEED TO BE EXPANDED?
¿QUE PROGRAMAS FALTAN O NECESITAN SER AMPLIADOS?

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### NUESTROS PARQUES, NUESTRO FUTURO

**Spend your way!**

**IF YOU HAD $1,000 TO INVEST IN AUSTIN’S PARKS, HOW WOULD YOU SPEND IT?**

**USE THE MONEY STICKER:**

**SI TUVIERA $1,000 PARA INVERTIR EN LOS PARQUES DE AUSTIN, ¿CÓMO LO GASTARÍA?**

**USAR LA ETIQUETA DE DINERO.**

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