



# **Bolm District Park Vision Plan**

## **Community Engagement Round 3: Vision Plan Engagement and Input Summary**

July 18, 2024

## About the Project

The City of Austin, Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) has engaged Halff Associates to provide vision planning and design services for Bolm District Park, an undeveloped district park of approximately 68.1 acres, located along the Colorado River at 6700 Bolm Road. The primary goal of the planning project is to develop a visionary framework to guide the future development of the park, its programming, facilities, features, general layout, funding requirements and potential implementation strategy through a study of PARC goals, site and area context analysis and a robust public engagement process. Community engagement includes three touchpoints, or rounds of engagement, including the introduction of the project, Vision Plan design concept options, and the recommended Vision Plan. Results from this effort shall be used as a roadmap for the future park development, park programming, business operations and management. The Vision Plan will also be used as a promotional tool to generate public interest, support and funding for future parkland development and partnerships.

## Engagement Approach and Details

Round #3 of community engagement efforts began in April 2024. The outreach team built on past outreach efforts to raise awareness and encourage engagement in Round #3 input opportunities. Four weeks prior to the meeting, a final event postcard was sent via Every Door Direct Mail to approximately 15,000 residents living within a two-mile area of Bolm Park. Multiple email notifications were sent to the stakeholder database, as well as social media posts and updates to the project webpage. Yard signs promoting the project were placed at Latinapalooza event, Montopolis Recreation Center and the George Washington Carver Museum and Library. Project outreach materials included information in English and Spanish, as well as a QR code and link for the project webpage, which included project details and meeting registration links.

A virtual Community Meeting was held via Zoom on May 14, 2024. The meeting was open to all and was conducted in both English and Spanish. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- inform the community about the project process and engagement efforts;
- share feedback gathered from the community during Rounds 2;
- present the final draft conceptual plan for the park;
- encourage participation in the Round 3 online survey; and
- share information about next steps.

During the meeting, the project team shared details about the project, Round #2 public input, provided information about the Sustainable SITES Initiative Certification and presented the draft final conceptual plan. Participants had the opportunity to provide comments and questions via the chat feature and the project team addressed questions. Participants were provided the online survey link and were encouraged to complete the survey and share it with

others in the community. Presentation materials and the meeting recording were made available for viewing on the project website at: [www.austintexas.gov/bolmpark](http://www.austintexas.gov/bolmpark)

The Round #3 project survey was launched on May 14, 2024 and closed on June 24, 2024. It included five questions which gathered feedback respondent’s proximity to the park, their zip code, how well the draft final concept plan achieves community values, what people like best about the concept, and any additional comments or questions. Additionally, participants had the opportunity to respond to demographic questions to help identify whether outreach efforts were connecting effectively with the diverse community. Feedback from the survey is included in the “survey responses” section.

In addition to the online engagement opportunities, three Pop-Up events were conducted at various locations in the community. These events served as an opportunity to engage residents in an informal way and provide project information, paper surveys in English and Spanish, and links to the online survey. Events ranged from one to two hours and included a Spanish Speaking team member.

**Participation Summary**

The table below includes the times, dates, locations and summary of number of participants at the various Round #3 engagement opportunities. The survey demographics section of this report summarizes responses from survey participants who chose to provide that information.

<b>Event / Activity Type</b>	<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>
Community Meeting (virtual)	May 14, 2024 6:30-7:30p.m.	Zoom (online)	56
Pop-Up Event	May 26, 2024 11:30-1:30p.m.	Latinapalooza	200
Pop-Up Event	June 12, 2024 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Montopolis Recreation Center	54
Pop-Up Event	June 20, 2024 4:30-6:00p.m.	Givens Recreation Center	25
Round #3 Survey	May 14 – June 24, 2024	Online	751

**Input Summary**

The survey for Community Engagement Round #3 asked respondents to provide feedback on the draft final concept plan. The concept plan was described in depth, showing planned locations for roadways and parking, trails and pathways, and areas for passive play, active play

and nature interaction. Planned amenities include items such as sports courts, bike park, trails, plaza/pavilion, playground, restroom, nature trails, personal water sports access and more.

Survey respondents were asked to rate how well the concept plan achieves the community values established for the project. They were also asked to rank the top five things they like best about the draft final concept plan. Respondents also were given an open comment area to share any additional comments or questions regarding the draft final concept plan.

**Survey Responses**

The online survey received 1,988 views, had 751 participants, and 292 comments to the open ended questions. The tables below represent the input received from all respondents to the survey. The project website provides a link to the report of comments received to the open comment question.

**How far do you live from the park?**  
*(744 responses)*

Less than ¼ mile	Percent of Responses
Less than ¼ mile	7%
Between ¼ to ½ mile	3%
Between ½ mile to 1 mile	3%
Between 1 to 2 miles	12%
More than 2 miles	74%

**What is your zip code?**  
*(726 Responses)*

Zip Code	# of Responses
78702	22
78704	35
78723	39
78724	24
78725	18
78741	22
78745	29
78749	18
Additional Zip Codes	02118, 06300, 10019,10036, 13790, 20149, 27516, 27560, 27587, 27613, 27705, 28202, 28306, 28801, 29616, 30071, 30101, 31909, 34010, 34109, 34953, 35244, 37087, 39560, 40272, 43215, 45066, 46140, 48116, 48451, 50025, 50625, 50625, 52777, 52786, 54666, 55418, 55478, 56732, 60007, 60602, 64184, 66204, 72757, 73123, 74066, 75019, 75022, 75025, 75207, 75211, 75229, 75251, 75270,

	76017, 76177, 76195, 76502, 76549, 76574, 76579, 76832, 77002, 77003, 77007, 77036, 77040, 77040, 77057, 77066, 77092, 77096, 77340, 77406, 77429, 77469, 77471, 77493, 77590, 77802, 78015, 78045, 78109, 78130, 78201, 78205, 78207, 78209, 78212, 78216, 78220, 78228, 78229, 78230, 78233, 78237, 78239, 78240, 78249, 78251, 78260, 78266, 78414, 78578, 78602, 78605, 78610, 78613, 78617, 78620, 78624, 78628, 78633, 78640, 78641, 78642, 78648, 78652, 78653, 78654, 78660, 78664, 78665, 78666, 78669, 78681, 78701, 78703, 78705, 78713, 78714, 78717, 78721, 78719, 78721, 78727, 78729, 78730, 78731, 78732, 78734, 78735, 78736, 78737, 78738, 78739, 78742, 78744, 78746, 78747, 78748, 78750, 78751, 78752, 78753, 78754, 78756, 78757, 78758, 78759, 78767, 78840, 78956, 79762, 79912, 79915, 80030, 80202, 81611, 81632, 84012, 87120, 87507, 88345, 0060, 90455, 92504, 92879, 94142, 95108, 98407, 98661
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**Does the draft final concept achieve the community values listed below?**

*(609 responses)*

	<b>Achieves values</b>	<b>Somewhat achieves values</b>	<b>Does not achieve value</b>
Provide a variety of active, passive, natural, and cultural experiences and activities for a multi-generational and multi-cultural community.	88%	11%	1%
Preserve, enhance, and celebrate the parks existing natural features to allow park users to connect with nature.	85%	13%	2%
Support accessibility to and within the park.	87%	12%	1%
Develop the park as an environment that is safe respectful and inviting to all.	89%	10%	1%

**Out of the list below, which 5 things do you like best about the draft final concept plan?**  
*(613 responses)*

Type of Activities	Percent of Responses
Bike park	69%
Trails	67%
River access (canoeing, kayaking, fishing, ect.)	36%
Sports courts (tennis, pickleball, basketball, etc.)	32%
Skate park	23%
Riverbank restoration	22%
Wildflower meadows	22%
Open space for free, unprogrammed play	21%
Adventure play	19%
Dogs off-leash area	18%
Birding/nature viewing	15%
Splash pad	14%
Playground areas	14%
Community garden	12%
Public art	11%
Sports Fields (soccer, football, baseball, etc.)	11%
Pavilions/picnicking	11%
Social games (horseshoes, cornhole, washers, etc.)	8%
Rain collection	7%
Historic exhibits	3%
Outdoor classroom	3%
Other	2%
Other responses included: Tennis, pickleball courts, disc golf, handball court, mountain bike trails, I can't tell anything from the 60 concept pics.	

**Do you have any additional comments or questions regarding the draft final concept plan?**  
*(247 Responses)*

Respondents’ comments broadly fell into four categories – support, questions, requests, and critiques. The table below provides high-level themes based on the comments received for each of the four categories and includes examples of individual feedback.

Comment Category	Examples of Feedback
Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numerous expressions of support for the plan and appreciation for the work of the project team</li> <li>• Comments expressing appreciation for taking past survey and public input and creating a concept plan that achieves desires expressed by participants</li> <li>• Excitement for having this new park in Austin, especially with connection to the river and bike park</li> <li>• Appreciation for including both nature and active areas (sports courts, bike park, trails)</li> </ul>
Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Onsite maintenance available 24/7?</li> <li>• Accessibility from pedestrian bridge at Hwy. 183 and Bom Road?</li> <li>• Anticipated cost?</li> <li>• Estimated completion date?</li> <li>• Connection to transit?</li> <li>• Connection to Walnut Creek Trail?</li> <li>• Connection to Knollwood on the Colorado neighborhood?</li> <li>• Concession stand?</li> </ul>
Requests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail connection to the Southern Walnut Creek Trail</li> <li>• Extend elevated adventure play to Forest Interpretation as a canopy walk</li> <li>• Open the park in stages, focusing on getting some access to the park before the park is fully funded (like trails / bike park)</li> <li>• Signage on the tennis courts that indicates they are to be used for tennis only</li> <li>• Add sound barrier wall on the southern end where space is limited to reduce the highway noise and pollution</li> <li>• Move dog park farther away from all bodies of water</li> <li>• Provide plenty of water fountains and shade. Minimize concrete coverage without shade where possible.</li> <li>• Include disc golf</li> <li>• More sport courts</li> <li>• Pedestrian/bike friendly access to the park from the west side of 183 and Truman Heights neighborhood and connect to Southern Walnut Trail.</li> <li>• More restrooms</li> </ul>

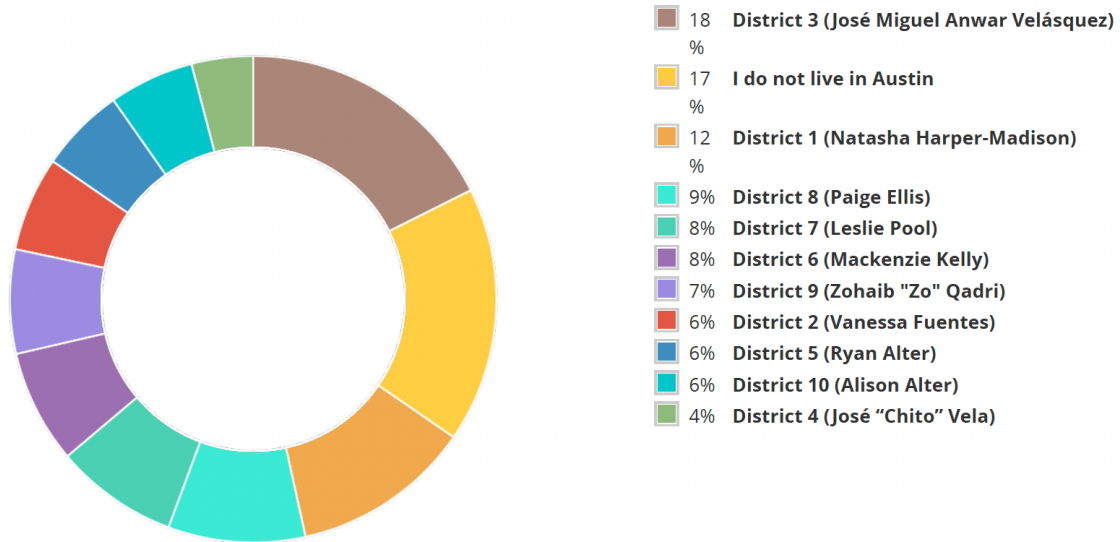
Comment Category	Examples of Feedback
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sufficient lighting at evening that doesn't create light pollution</li> <li>• Adding a pavilion with a sport court for roller skating / roller derby track</li> <li>• Reduce impervious cover and increase nature</li> <li>• Have ample shade and trees</li> <li>• Be wheelchair accessible</li> <li>• Add pay-as-you-go charging stations for personal devices (bike lights, speakers, smartphones), electric cars, and PEVs (e-bikes, OneWheels, electric unicycles &amp; electric scooters)</li> <li>• Increase size of skatepark</li> <li>• Have native, edible, and/or wildlife-supporting flora</li> <li>• Provide more substantial river access, both viewing access and tangible access (i.e. ability to touch the water).</li> <li>• Separate area for large and small dogs</li> </ul>
<p>Critiques</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community garden too small</li> <li>• Map was difficult to read and impossible to magnify, so it was difficult to see what's actually planned.</li> <li>• Misses any small to mid size event space</li> <li>• Too little park for all uses planned</li> <li>• People living in the neighborhood right next to the park thought they were going to connect the park to Smith Road so we can drive our kayaks down to the river, but the plan selected means that we will have to drive them up 183, do the turn around and then down to Levander Loop and then all the way back up to the park.</li> <li>• Should be more clear about the essential role that this park can plan as a trailhead and node in the regional trail network, both for the Southern Walnut Creek Trail and a future Colorado River Trail going downstream from Longhorn Dam.</li> <li>• The alteration to the addition of the graffiti style art is not appealing.</li> <li>• Separation of the skate park and pump &amp; jump track from the main cycle zone seems like it will create a lot of unwanted cross travel.</li> <li>• Splash Pad appears small for the overall size of the facility</li> </ul>



### Survey Demographics

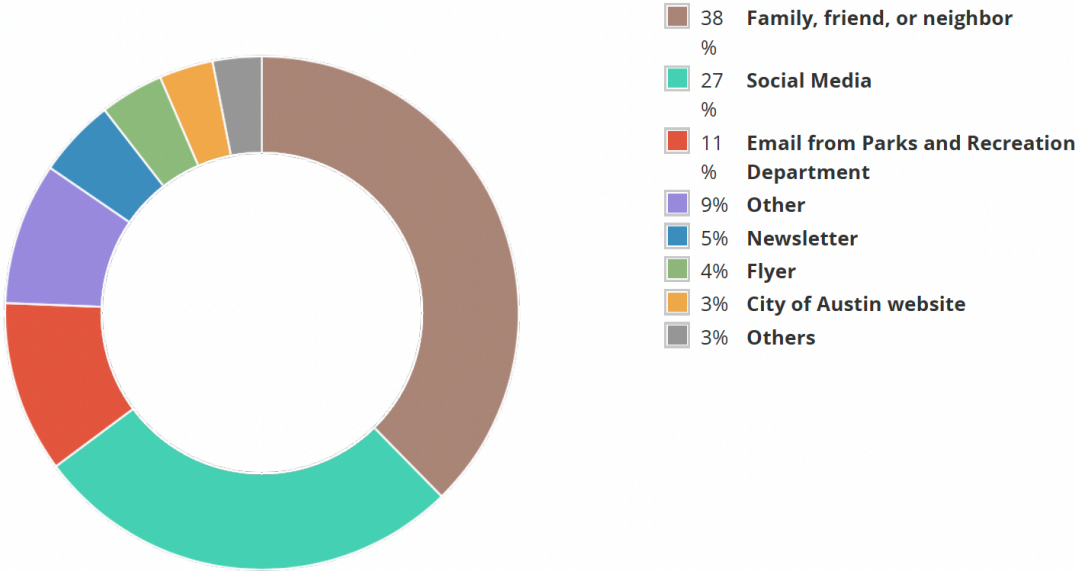
The Austin Parks and Recreation Department asks for the following information in order to help identify whether we are connecting to our diverse community effectively.

What City Council District do you live in?



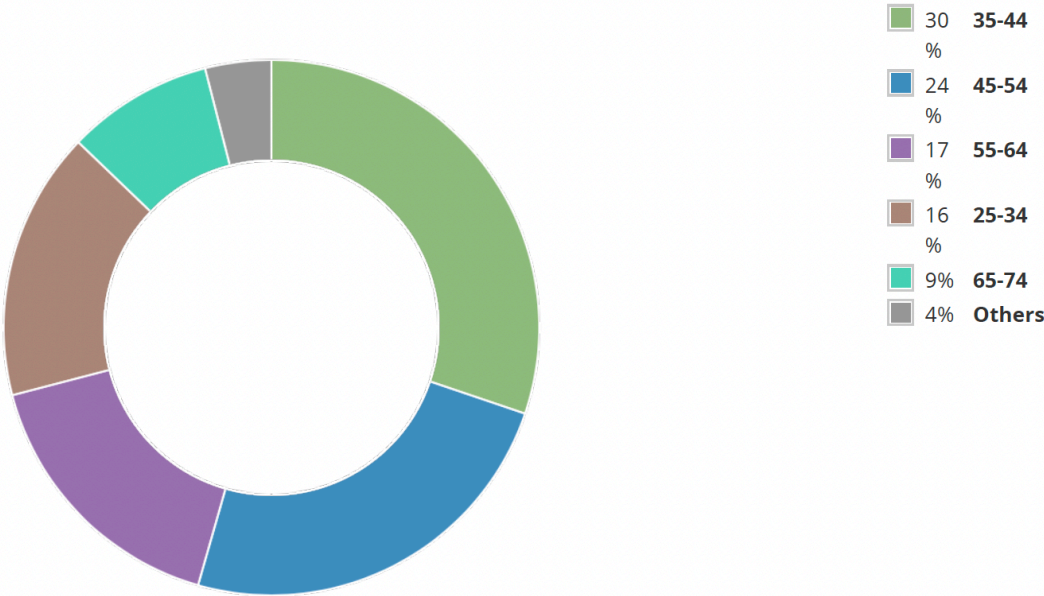
318 respondents

How did you hear about the project?



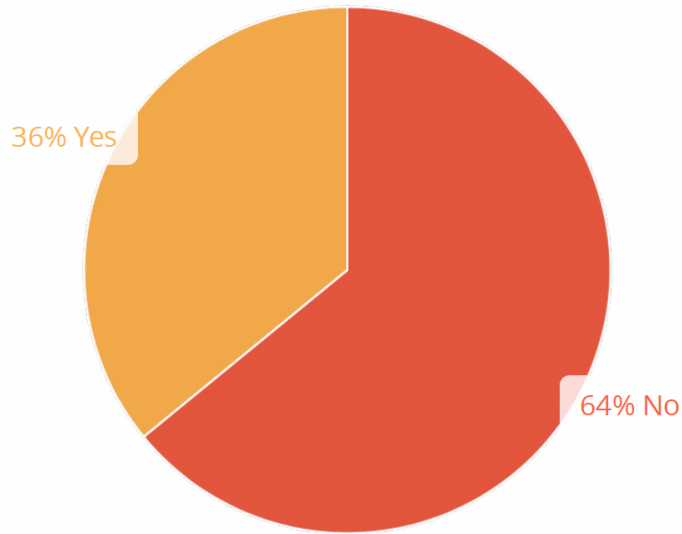
324 respondents

What is your age range?



351 respondents

Do you have children under the age of 18 who live with you?



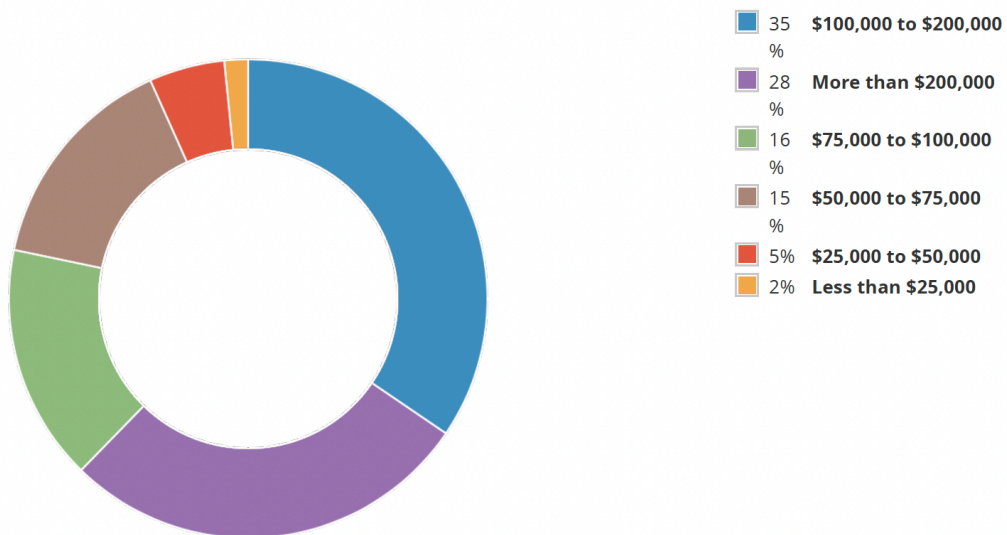
347 respondents

What is your race/ethnicity?

72%	White	233 ✓
19%	Hispanic or Latinx	63 ✓
5%	Asian or Asian American	17 ✓
4%	Race or ethnicity not listed. I identify as:	14 ✓
3%	Black or African-American	10 ✓
1%	American Indian or Alaska Native	4 ✓
1%	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	3 ✓

325 Respondents

What is your annual household income?



313 respondents

What language is spoken at home?

94%	English	315 ✓
13%	Spanish	43 ✓
2%	Other	7 ✓
1%	Korean	3 ✓
1%	French	3 ✓
1%	Prefer not to say	3 ✓
1%	Vietnamese	2 ✓
0%	Arabic	1 ✓
0%	Chinese (Mandarin)	1 ✓
0%	Chinese (Cantonese)	0 ✓

335 Respondents