

Workshop 2: The Grove Public Parks Master Plan Meeting Summary

April 24, 2017

<p>Introduction: Charles Mabry, PARD</p>	<p>Charles introduced the master planning process for The Grove Public Parks Master Plan, updated stakeholders on decisions made during the PUD process and what the roles and responsibilities of PARD and the developer would be moving forward.</p>																																																																	
<p>Previous Input Review: Rebecca Leonard, AIG Bull Creek</p>	<p>Rebecca updated the participants on Workshop 1 results and results from park-focused meetings during the PUD process as requested at the last workshop.</p>																																																																	
<p>Finalize Vision and Goals: Rebecca Leonard, AIG Bull Creek</p>	<p>Rebecca reviewed draft vision and goal statements compiled from prior feedback. Participants were given a worksheet on which they could comment on the vision statement as well as comment on, add to and rank the goal statements.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5" style="text-align: center;">Goals in Order of Ranked Importance (1= most important)</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Rank</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Goal</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Average Ranking</th> <th style="text-align: center;">% Ranking 1 or 2</th> <th style="text-align: center;">% Ranking 10 or 11</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td>Preserve and enhance the natural character and distinct natural features of the site</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3.09</td> <td style="text-align: center;">59%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td>Build a critical link and destination in Austin's Shoal Creek Trail system</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4.78</td> <td style="text-align: center;">26%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td>Create a place that feels open, welcoming and comfortable for all.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5.27</td> <td style="text-align: center;">12%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td>Provide opportunities for exploration, escape, and connection with nature.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5.42</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td>Provide opportunities for active recreation for all ages and abilities</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5.52</td> <td style="text-align: center;">19%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td>Ensure infrastructure is sufficient to accommodate anticipated use.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5.72</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td>Celebrate the sites unique geology and ecology.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5.83</td> <td style="text-align: center;">23%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">17%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td>Create a vibrant complimentary interface with the adjacent urban district.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6.75</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td>Develop programming and amenities that build community.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7.08</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10</td> <td>Celebrate the site's unique cultural history.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7.43</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">29%</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td>Other Goals</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5.33</td> <td style="text-align: center;">41%</td> <td style="text-align: center;">30%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Full comments are included after this summary.</p>	Goals in Order of Ranked Importance (1= most important)					Rank	Goal	Average Ranking	% Ranking 1 or 2	% Ranking 10 or 11	1	Preserve and enhance the natural character and distinct natural features of the site	3.09	59%	3%	2	Build a critical link and destination in Austin's Shoal Creek Trail system	4.78	26%	6%	3	Create a place that feels open, welcoming and comfortable for all.	5.27	12%	5%	4	Provide opportunities for exploration, escape, and connection with nature.	5.42	20%	11%	5	Provide opportunities for active recreation for all ages and abilities	5.52	19%	8%	6	Ensure infrastructure is sufficient to accommodate anticipated use.	5.72	20%	11%	7	Celebrate the sites unique geology and ecology.	5.83	23%	17%	8	Create a vibrant complimentary interface with the adjacent urban district.	6.75	8%	20%	9	Develop programming and amenities that build community.	7.08	9%	22%	10	Celebrate the site's unique cultural history.	7.43	3%	29%	-	Other Goals	5.33	41%	30%
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Review Vision and Park Plans:
Robert Deegan,
Norris Design

Robert described two alternatives for the Vision and Park Plans including zones of intensity and program elements for each. Participants filled out a Draft Plan Evaluation Worksheet that prompted them to evaluate how well the alternatives fulfill the goals.

Rating <i>Signature Park</i> Concepts by Goals (4 = "Meets Goal" and 1 = "Falls Short")		
Goal	Concept A	Concept B
Preserve and enhance the natural character and distinct natural features of the site.	3.12	2.57
Celebrate the sites unique geology and ecology.	3.01	2.43
Provide opportunities for exploration, escape, and connection with nature.	3.24	2.55
Provide opportunities for active recreation for all ages and abilities.	3.00	2.79
Develop programming and amenities that build community.	2.88	2.78
Create a vibrant complimentary interface with the adjacent urban district.	3.04	2.66
Ensure infrastructure is sufficient to accommodate anticipated use.	2.81	2.50
Celebrate the site's unique cultural history.	2.76	2.39
Build a critical link and destination in Austin's Shoal Creek Trail system.	3.06	2.70
Create a place that feels open, welcoming and comfortable for all.	3.14	2.79

Rating <i>Pocket Park</i> Concepts by Goals (4 = "Meets Goal" and 1 = "Falls Short")		
Goal	Concept A	Concept B
Preserve and enhance the natural character and distinct natural features of the site.	2.75	2.60
Celebrate the sites unique geology and ecology.	2.71	2.58
Provide opportunities for exploration, escape, and connection with nature.	2.67	2.53
Provide opportunities for active recreation for all ages and abilities.	2.82	2.62
Develop programming and amenities that build community.	2.79	2.69
Create a vibrant complimentary interface with the adjacent urban district.	2.54	2.63
Ensure infrastructure is sufficient to accommodate anticipated use.	2.64	2.60
Celebrate the site's unique cultural history.	2.49	2.48
Build a critical link and destination in Austin's Shoal Creek Trail system.	2.56	2.63
Create a place that feels open, welcoming and comfortable for all.	2.61	2.61

Full comments are included after this summary.

Next Steps:

Rebecca and Charles informed stakeholders about the schedule and next steps.

***Workshop 2: The Grove Public Parks Master Plan
Combined Paper and On-line Poll Results***

April 24, 2017

Vision Statement Comments

It would be good to have a large playground, splash pad & restrooms. Larger active zone, an amphitheater would be good.
The options seem very similar. I'm not really sure what the choices are.
Need a Dog park somewhere even if it's a small one. Ex: pocket dog parks at domain development
Find more than .5 acre for off leach dog area. Even if it similar to domain dog areas.
Good!
To say no park land used for parking sounds nice, but the reality is to create a lot of problems, traffic, space, & safety. Not wise.
Seems like a lot to expect from limited spaces. Good Luck!
Natural viewpoint would be great. Treehouse with slide sounds like a great idea but could become too crowded if it is not big enough.
Very Nice!
Great Plan!
I don't consider this an urban area, just a bit too far north. The second one is good. The third is forced. I don't think this development is a fabric of Austin, it's a new and exciting Austin, but don't try to make it something that is not to appear opposition. I think you need to tie this more and more to Shoal Creek and the Shoal Creek Trail. Other than residents at the Grove, that will be there connection to the rest of Austin. One of the jewels along the Shoal Creek corridor.
I like it, especially serving the needs of all of Austin (I'm not an immediate neighbor, but I'll be biking over).
The third bullet doesn't add anything meaningful to the vision.
I prefer urban oasis – birds, plants, dogs. A place to get away from the hustle and concrete jungle Austin is becoming and a buffer from street and commercial business.
Appropriate IF by vibrant, you don't mean large crowds and loud concerts. Also, by all Austinites, I take it to mean that you are trying to drive people into your development
There is too much activity and planned restaurants including the pond near the "majestic" trees for them to survive long term. The paving over and building on the last piece of Blackland prairie in central Austin with a pollinator strip garden as a substitute does not contribute to "diverse natural habitat .
I add even more parkland - it needs to support the mass of people brought in by the PUD as well as the nearby neighborhoods!
a multi-generational space
Active, vibrant parks that serve the needs of the surrounding neighborhoods, new and old, and all Austinites.
Love the open spaces and keeping the diverse, natural habitat
Appropriate vision statement.
Very
Love it!
Very appropriate
Exactly what it should be
Very appropriate.
Passive, preserve natural beauty, undeveloped
Open spaces that feel integral and indispensable to the fabric of Austin. What does that even mean? I really don't like that line.
I am not sure if it is an urban oasis as compared to a vibrant park
I would take out "Active" from the second sentence and add something about wildflowers.
A natural area preserving sensitive environmental features. Urban is not adjective that should describe this park
I love the idea of action and activity for Central Austin
One of the top priorities on all input was a dog park. Clearly not included in either plan. Why did the neighbors bother with input if it was not noted/used?
The vision statement is lovely, and quite the opposite of the actual plan. A shopping mall parking lot will be more of an urban oasis. What a lost opportunity.
I am not sure what this means

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- 27% of residents provided “Other” goals. These included requests for dog parks, tennis courts, bicycle safety, small amphitheater, community performance spaces, peaceful place of natural beauty, create a park that enhances the uniqueness of the neighborhoods, preserve the uses of the of the current park, recognize historical significance of site, and splash pad.

'Other' Goals Provided
Dog Park
Dog Park
Tennis Courts
Help mitigate flooding along Shoal Creek.
Off Leash Dog Park
Emphasize pedestrian and bicycle safety.
keep it natural
Provide a small place for performance art - small amphitheater. The city is severely lacking outdoor community performance spaces. Zilker Hillside is the only one I can think of.

i did not use other
Preserve a peaceful place of natural beauty that is undisturbed by development, bikes, restaurant food, trash, concrete and other infrastructure
Activities that are difficult to duplicate (and difficult to find) Like a swimming pool and tennis court would be the best overall improvement to the plan. I do not at all understand the goal of an amphitheatre. All this creates is noise complaints.
Enhances the uniqueness of the neighborhoods
Preserve the uses of the site that have been in place for many years -- walking trails, access by adjacent neighbors, dog friendly.
Recognize historical significance of site
Additional heritage, protected and non-protected tree preservation
I would like to see a designated off leash dog park area.. when it mentions creating a space for all.. to me that includes our four legged friends. When it mentions preserving the natural character.. it being a unique and wonderful dog park to a tremendous number of people for many (over 20) years, that's become a huge part of its character.
Provide dog park with off leash area
Large lower field for dog park will be very attractive to residents in such a crowded area. Midlevel wildflower field, trees and bushes fenced off for people to view and walk around but not on; will permit some aspects of natural world to continue to exist; fence off before construction begins.
Splash pad!!
The #1 request on the original survey of the surrounding neighborhood was a dog park. Are there designs honoring that request -- even if it's created through a retail proposition, similar to the Yard Bar on Burnet Rd.?

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- Signature Park Option A comments included statements about where a splash pad would be located, preference to this option for the larger amount of lawn, the need for many accessible trails, the bridge on the southern portion of the site is not needed, how the decks under trees may harm trees vibrancy, concentrate recreational amenities near public plaza, lack of active spaces for kids and families.
- Signature Park Option B comments included increasing the size of the playgrounds, appreciation for the amount of active zones provided, concern over potential problem with active recreation in environmentally sensitive areas, overall a park that would be fun for all ages.

Signature Park Option A Comments
Key Question is where is splash pad in this option?
I recommend this option due to larger amount of open lawn.
Option A Preferred!
Bridge at southern end of property is problem, but this is better than concept B
Outdoor Exercise Area?
There is no detail about supportive infrastructure & neighborhood interface.
Hard to tell on this map how it meets some of this criteria.
You need plenty of accessible trails. No need for a bridge at the south end, as you're already connecting into the Ridgelea trail.
dislike decks into trees that may harm tree's vibrancy. Hate that proximity to restaurants means trash and food will be in the park. Bike speed should be limited through this area to make it safe for pedestrians and explorers. I wanted to leave blank #9, 10,11 - my point being do not do these at all!
This plan is the better of the two, but there is still so much park lost. The pond takes up too much space. The cul-de-sac at the north end is unnecessary. Why can't Jackson Avenue naturally end in an east-west street rather than have it's own large circle drive that creates additional traffic close to the homes on 45th?
Prefer Option A - concentrate recreational amenities near public plaza, focus rest of the site on preserving natural areas, trails.
southern bridge location feels too close to existing houses on 4100 block of Jefferson. The height of bridge and switchback trail is very close, please keep the existing natural vegetation in that area.
Option a is overbuilt, pushed to the creek edges that will be washed away over time
This does not have enough fun places for kids and families
More play area

Signature Park Option B Comments
I like the splash pad- playground would be better if it were bigger.
I think all ages playzone/splash pad should be located on town square. The splash pad would require more concrete & is only used part of the year. There is a really close/ underutilized splash pad at Baily Park(walking distance)
if an off-leash dog area is provided, it must be fenced.
Seems more fluid
I prefer this option w/ more active zones
I'm having a hard time seeing the details on this map.
It could use a larger playground and a public pool as well
Option B is too busy - needs to be more peaceful, more natural
Potential problem with active recreation in areas that are environmentally sensitive.
the southern bridge connection is very close and intrusive to existing houses at 41xx Jefferson back yards. also switchback trail very close to back yards. please keep existing vegetaion
Very overbuilt, few open spaces, more of a commercial area than a park
This looks fun for all ages!
More play area
Dog park

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- Pocket Park Option A comments included suggestions to increase seating, include historical memorial in this park, increase access from surrounding areas to not look like a private park, possibility of tennis courts.
- Pocket Park Option B comments included suggestions to keep playground sheltered from the street but close to other amenities, include historical memorial, increase seating, increase accessibility, include dog park here.

Pocket Park Option A Comments
Design is OK for all seems community input/ refinement is generally limited to items like where the playscape is.
I recommend this option due to larger open lawn.
Like the flat open space in NW corner. Prefer seating deck with view over Plan B's active deck. Like- No Amphitheater.
These two concepts are so similar that the choices are not significant.
Like no lengthy green space & more access to plays cape.
Could the pocket park have a couple of tennis courts?
Outdoor Exercise Area?
Tennis Courts?
Much better, I can see this map.
Needs more seating areas. Needs more access from surrounding areas. It shouldn't look like a private park.
Terrible location
There could be more seating and a bigger playground
Why isn't there room for an off-leash dog area here?
Include prominent educational memorial to commemorate former state school for blind and deaf.
these questions difficult to answer . I prefer Option A to option B but still feel like area too small for heavy usage it will receive.
Splash Pad

Pocket Park Option B Comments
Don't like less passive use. Like- No Amphitheater.
I prefer this option
It seems to be more diverse and invites for exploring and spread people in different areas.
I am very concerned about the amount of cars going to and from this area as I live nearby.
Also needs more seating. Needs more accessibility.
Maintain existing ecosystems, keep Austin green
The most important thing to me is the placement of the playgrounds. They should be sheltered from the street but close to other amenities.
Not enough
The case for no dog park was weak. There is PLENTY of space to include a fenced in dog park. it was the NUMBER ONE thing people wanted.
The playground could be larger and more seating available
Too many roads in Option B
Include prominent educational memorial to commemorate former state school for blind and deaf.
these questions don't feel appropriate. The area feels very small & constrained. make it larger for better score!

Overall Online Survey - Additional Comments
This park should not just turn into yet another concert venue. Any farmer's markets should not adversely affect surrounding neighbors with noise, traffic, cut through traffic and parking. The park should be kept as natural as possible, but include a combination of soft and hard trails. All parts should be accessible.
It would be good to have bigger playgrounds and a public pool/splashpad
I hope a next iteration will be more passive and natural. I hate that the suggestion for soft surfaces on a trail was immediately rejected. Why was the need for an "urban trail" that requires concrete predetermined before input? ps - with all the development and limited park area, I believe there cannot be a dog park on site, and even a dog friendly park will be difficult. Between owners and neighbors, there will be too many dogs and not enough land here.
It needs to preserve as much the open space nature of the area.
As I stated in the meeting, it needs to be made clear that existing homes on 45th can maintain access to the park through our back gates, especially if we are to use the Shoal Creek Trail to travel east/west in lieu of a sidewalk in front of our homes. At the meeting, Mr. Deegan said this "could be discussed." Frankly, that's not good enough. Also, as the owner of 2623 W. 45th Street, we are the *ONLY* home on 45th that does not get at least 50' of distance from our property line to the development. The cul-de-sac for Jackson Avenue is closer than 50' to our house as currently drawn, which in turn pushes the trail closer to our house than it will be for others. The 50' "Northern Greenbelt" needs to consistently run across the northern edge of the project.
Preserve and protect natural areas and heritage trees, concentrate active recreation closer to developed area of Grove. Thanks.
Prefer a bridge which "collects" users in the center area of the 16 acre park. The southern bridge location on west bank feel overbearing to Ridgelea neighbors. move it to middle or north with more pedestrians / commuters will be
The plans are extremely difficult to see on this survey. Had I not attended the meeting I would have no idea what these questions were asking. Another ARG bait and switch.
The number one request from neighborhood associations was an off leash dog park.
Looking forward to family fun at this new park!!!
Hard to believe this is going to turn out Well when the #2request of a dog park was completely left out.
Please have a splash pad
If a dog park is in the works, but hasn't been communicated yet, please do so. Honoring the #1 request of the surrounding neighborhoods will demonstrate so much good will on your part.