



Circle C Metropolitan Park Off Leash Area Proposal

Workshop #1

Parks and Recreation Department

D'Anne Williams, Planning and Development

March 1, 2016



Introduction



Staff

- D'Anne Williams, Landscape Architect, Planning and Design Division
- Charles Mabry, Park Development Coordinator, RLA, Planning and Design Division

Project Proposal

- Application submitted by citizens (Off Leash Area Guidelines)
- Goals – Gauge Community support and feasibility; explore possible locations
- Appropriate sites
- Proposal for the intersection of Escarpment and Slaughter Lane
- Project is not currently funded

History and Guidelines

- Current areas in Austin that allow dogs off leash /governing laws
- Explore what other comparable cities are doing
- What amenities are suggested by experts and what amount of space is required
- Needs and constraints
- Process
- Next Steps



Community Benefits



Research shows pet ownership provides both physical and mental benefits

Off leash areas

- ❑ Foster the Owner/Dog relationship
- ❑ Provides and promotes a “legal” way to expand exercise opportunities for both dog and Owner
- ❑ Provides an opportunity to education citizens about healthy dog behavior
- ❑ Creates a “social” hub for neighbors and dogs



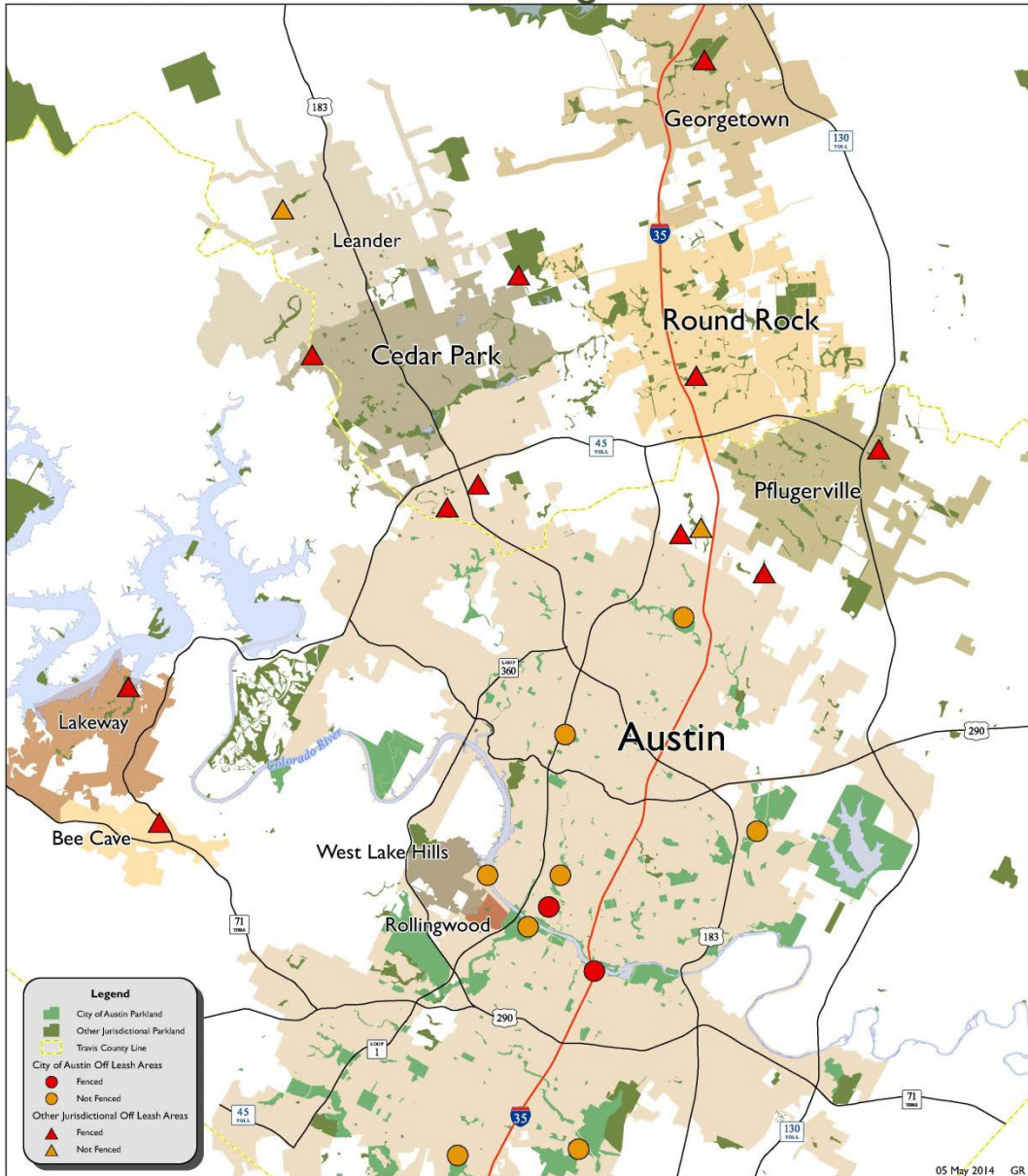
City of Austin Code

Chapter 3-4 Regulations for Dogs and Cats

- ❑ 3-4-1: Except as provided in Section 3-4-4 an owner or handler of a dog shall keep the dog under restraint
- ❑ 3-4-4: An owner or handler may allow a dog to be without restraint ...in the following places:
- ❑ 3-4-6: An owner or handler shall promptly remove and sanitarly dispose of pet waste left on public or private property by a dog or cat
- ❑ 3-4-7: An owner or handler shall take reasonable measures to protect the public from accidental contact with a dog that by nature or training is dangerous to people or other animals.



Regional Off Leash Areas



City of Austin Parks

- 10 – Open space or trails off leash areas
 - Zilker Metro Park
 - Onion Creek Metro Park
 - Shoal Creek Trail – 24th to 29th St.
 - Turkey Creek Trail, Emma Long Metro Park
 - Mary Moore Searight Metro Park
 - Walnut Creek Metro Park
 - Far West Detention Area Trail
 - Red Bud Isle
 - Walnut Creek Greenbelt at Davis White
 - Auditorium Shores – Town Lake Metro Park
- 2- Fenced off leash areas
 - West Austin Park
 - Norwood –Town Lake Metro Park



National Examples

Number of off leash areas per city varies:

Indianapolis (same size and density as Austin) – 4

San Francisco (comparable population, 8 x denser) – 56

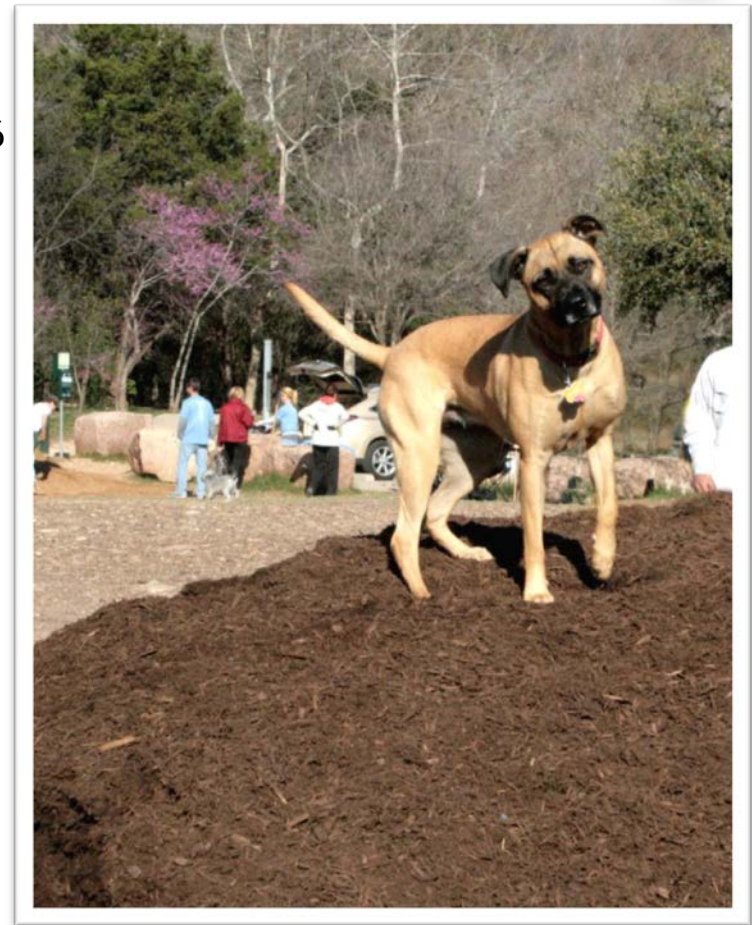
Houston – 7

Portland Oregon – 33

Statistics ASPCA 2011: 37 – 47% of households own 1 or more dogs

Professional recommendations:

- Min. 1 acre per 25 dogs (size varies)
- Divided area for lawn repair
- Self closing double gate entrance
- Parking in close proximity
- Water for dogs and people
- Education to avoid bad behavior
- Not isolated but protected from traffic
- Closed one day a week for maintenance and rain days
- Provide irrigation for lawns
- SHADE!

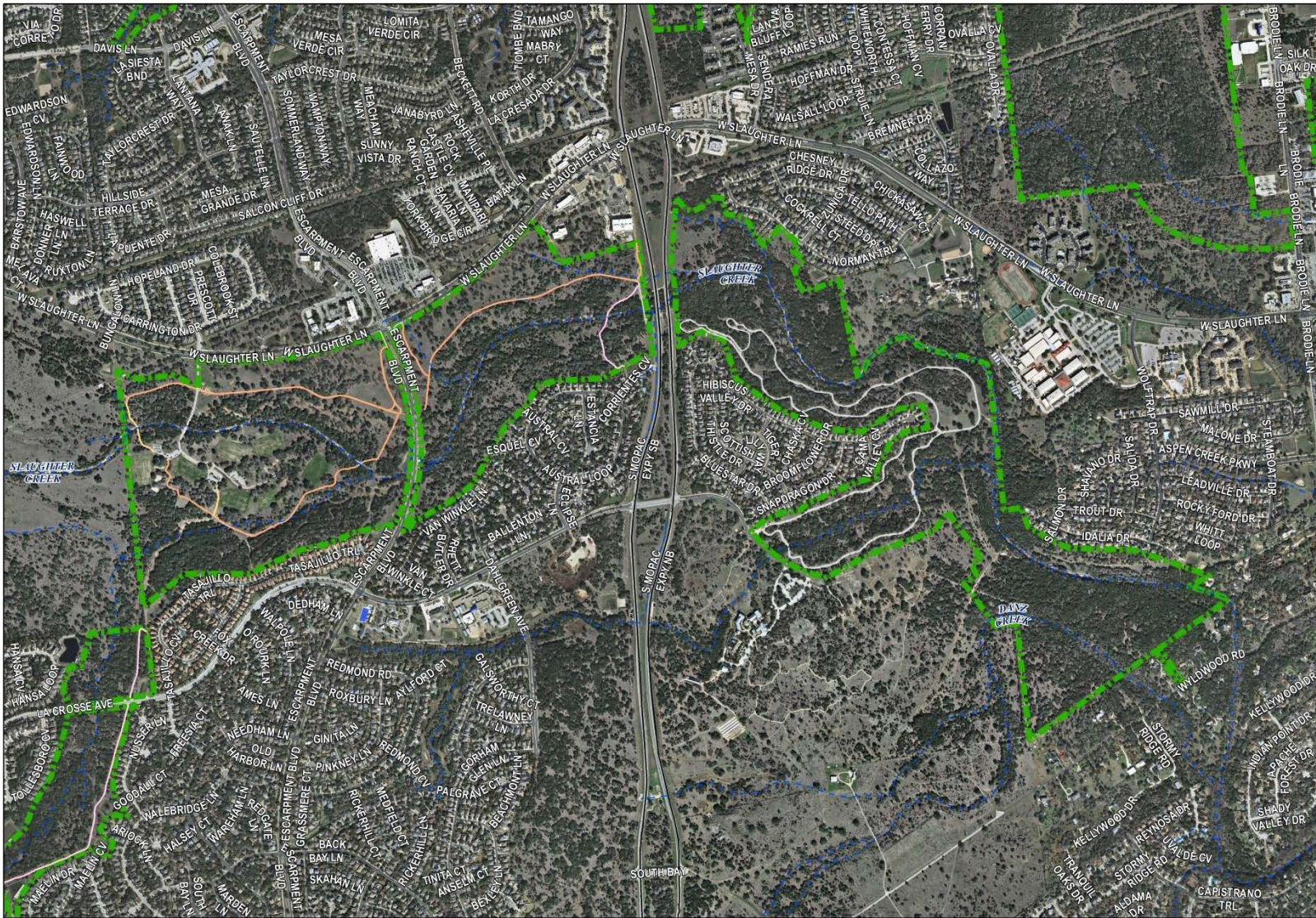


Needs/Constraints



- Community Support
- Sustainable both Environmentally and for Maintenance
- Access and Parking
- Water availability
- Trees and Critical Environmental Features
- Cost

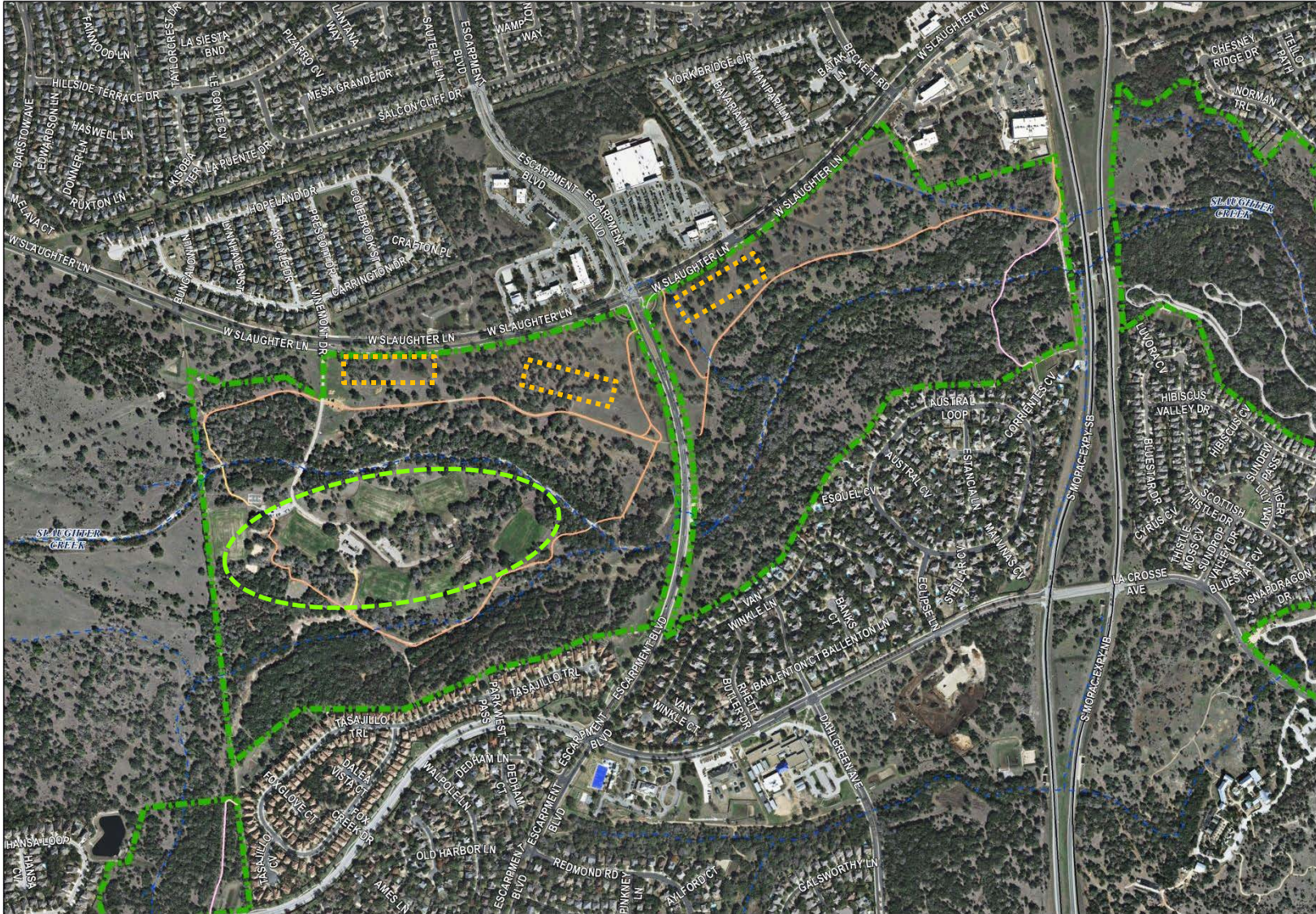
Circle C Metropolitan Park



February 29, 2016 DW



Possible locations



Next Steps



- ❑ **Workshop Meeting #2**, (date to be determined)
 - Review comments received
 - Present Conceptual Options
- ❑ **Workshop Meeting #3** (date to be determined)
 - Present Final Concept
- ❑ **Present Final Concept to Parks and Recreation Board**



Questions/Comments?

Contact Information



D'Anne Williams 512-974-9456
CircleCParkoffleasharea@austintexas.gov

Thank you!