

Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park Phase 1 Play Survey 1

Project Engagement

VIEWS

965

PARTICIPANTS

259

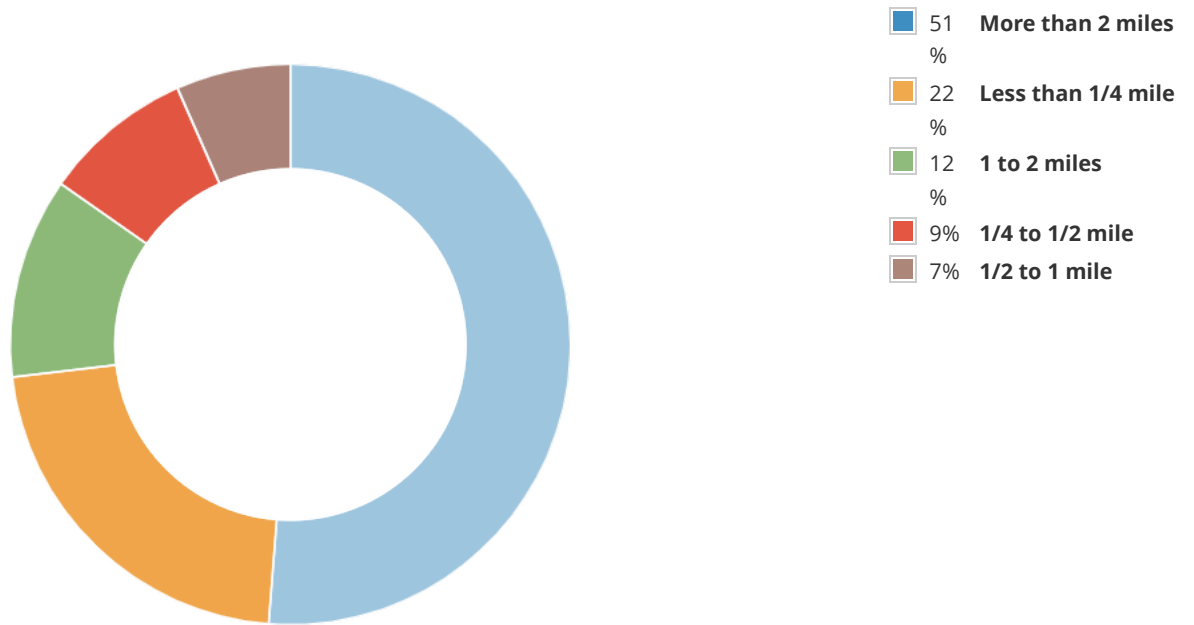
RESPONSES

3,155

COMMENTS

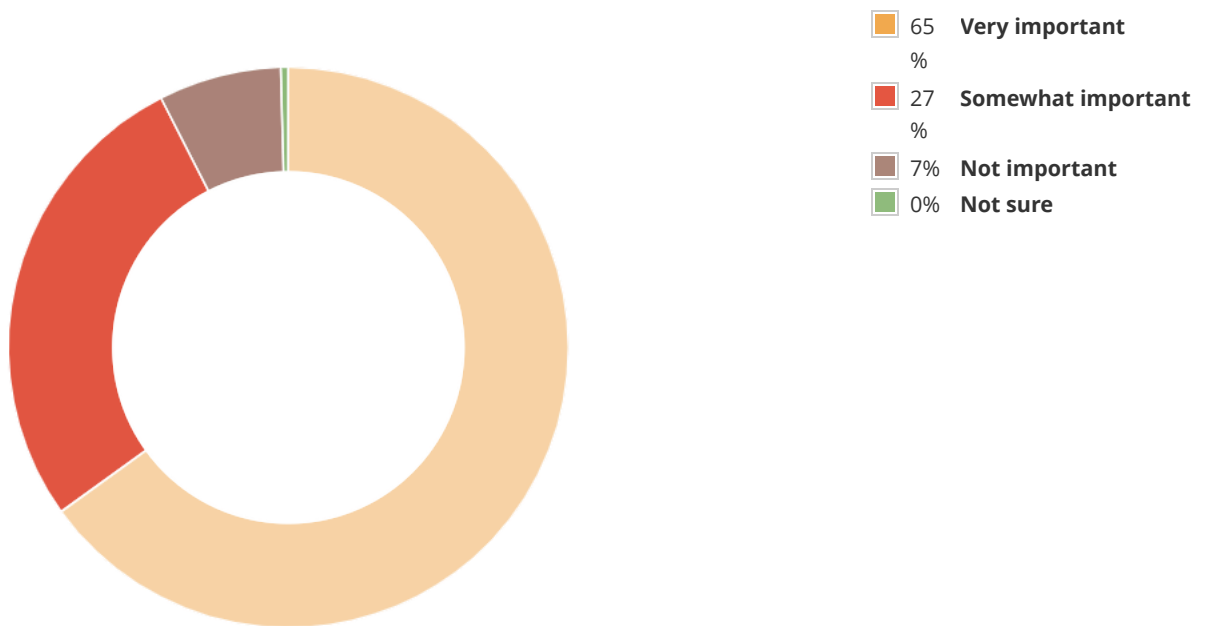
180

How far do you live from the park?



242 respondents

How important is it to you to have nature-based play features in the park?



226 respondents

Please select the top three nature play features you would most like to see in the park.

84%	Natural trails or tunnels	162 ✓
68%	Water play (stream, lake edge)	132 ✓
53%	Wildflower meadow	103 ✓
50%	Logs and boulders for climbing	97 ✓
20%	Sand or dirt play area	39 ✓
12%	Loose parts for building and exploring (sticks, stones, etc)	23 ✓

194 Respondents

Are there other nature-play features or ideas you would like to suggest for this park?

Natural or eco friendly shade structures

21 days ago

9 Agree

Additionally, ample shade for these features is crucial!

21 days ago

8 Agree

Shade is important so families can enjoy the play area year round.

18 days ago

👍 7 Agree

Have some good parking with camera installed and lighting

21 days ago

👍 5 Agree

A nature center with a planetarium.

10 days ago

👍 3 Agree

A hike and bike trail completely around the lake would be my top request.

11 days ago

👍 3 Agree

Hiking and biking trails would be amazing at the park. There is so much unused space that could be better used for walking/exercising and enjoying area.

17 days ago

👍 3 Agree

Walking, biking, running trail. Access to the lake to do various activities (sup, kayak, boat, etc), bathrooms & outdoor shower/rise off area.

19 days ago

👍 3 Agree

It would be so cool to have a mud-kitchen type of setup for kiddos to get creative with water play!

21 days ago

👍 3 Agree

A food forest made of a mixture of native fruit trees and adapted fruit trees like figs

4 days ago

👍 2 Agree

naturally shaded spaces such as forts or treehouses or hammock-hanging spots.

5 days ago

👍 2 Agree

Natural tunnels and logs and boulders for climbing would also be nice to have in the park.

10 days ago

👍 2 Agree

Bike trails that are kid-friendly and have bike repair stations and bike racks. Outdoor musical instruments!

10 days ago

👍 2 Agree

A dock for fishing

10 days ago

👍 2 Agree

Community gardening to help our food desert, plus encouraging adaptation to climate change

14 days ago

👍 2 Agree

My hope would be that the space would be developed simply to enhance the natural beauty of the park and not to add man-made features or a lot of line-of-sight obstructions. I visit the park 3+ times per week as it's one of the few quiet places conducive to walking my reactive dog in the area. Without this space, my family's day to day life would be greatly diminished as this allows us to get our dog the enrichment he needs without running into countless off leash dogs or people coming around corners. The clear line of sight allows us to move out of the way of others. This place has been so important as we've worked on our training exercises. My hope is that improvements enhance what the park is right now (an open place to enjoy nature) rather than turning it into a more structured space with stereotypical "attractions" or traditional play features.

18 days ago

👍 2 Agree

Paddle boats, kayaks, paddle boards. Nice bathrooms

20 days ago

👍 2 Agree

Pease park and butler metro park are great examples of great parks. I'd love to have a similar great park near us!

21 days ago

👍 2 Agree

This area is some of the last remaining blackland prairie so the soil is deep. There could be some nice area highlighting blackland systems through digging, roots, etc

2 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Night sky friendly lighting

3 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Multisensory garden, varied ground textures, natural bridges, designated quiet spaces.

3 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Bird blind

3 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Plant a lot of trees with tree folk.

3 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Shade, shade, and more shade. It's all pointless if it's not shaded during the hot times of the year

3 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Keep the park natural to encourage birds and wildlife —do not add stuff to it...Nothing teaches children more about the planet than seeing wildlife in native habitat. Do not take away land or features from animals and instead have quiet trails for observation of nature by humans.

3 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Shade!!!! We avoid parks in direct sun.

7 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Ample shade and eco friendly!

10 days ago

👍 1 Agree

dock or ramp for hand launched watercraft that is not directly vehicle accessible

10 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Nature trails with ample tree cover for shade.

10 days ago

👍 1 Agree

A dog park would be an amazing edition for the area.

14 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Shade is so key for nature-based and traditional play areas!

When considering traditional play areas, please pay attention to high structures that don't have sides - these limit their use to older kids. Even if younger ones know not to jump off, older kids are often running by without too much regard and are at risk of knocking smaller kids off.

Some mud kitchens, pretend structures, and low tables can be fun for kiddos too.

18 days ago

👍 1 Agree

The sand always ends up clogging water fountains and getting all over. Do not install

5 hours ago

trees

5 hours ago

Splash pad with shade

22 hours ago

Expand our green space(s)!

yesterday

Something similar to City Park in Lakeway.- walking loop, exercise stations, pickleball courts, butterfly garden and dog park.

yesterday

Sufficient shade and parking

yesterday

FISHING! Fishing! FISHING! The most important part is fishing! I've been taking my two kids fishing in this lake! We have been making great memories on this body of water!

2 days ago

A lot of shade! Both for those playing and for those watching children. It would also be nice to incorporate some traditional playground items in addition to nature play ones.

2 days ago

Wild areas for critters

2 days ago

Climbing rocks are the best!

2 days ago

Shade in the nature play areas is paramount!

2 days ago

I love the water play idea especially for the heat of the summers in Texas but lake edge and the risk of the kids drowning is what knocked it off my top 3 list. It is so hard to balance how we can teach our children, giving all families the same opportunities while acknowledging the real risk that an attorney is going to see money to be made by bringing lawsuits against the city.

3 days ago

Educational gardening or play gardening area, a composting center—a place to gather leaves and organic matter with signs showing what to collect and what it will turn into

3 days ago

Shade structures

3 days ago

The astroturf mounds like they have at home slice on 51st are popular for all ages and can be made in all sizes. Please incorporate shade sails and plenty of trees for shade

3 days ago

The mounds made out of astroturf with tunnels that they have at home slice off 51st are very popular with all aged kids if you can make diff sizes.

3 days ago

I love the features at Pease park- wood climbing features

3 days ago

Trees

3 days ago

Trees planted

3 days ago

Artificial cave/karst area for fun play and educating people on the value of both our bats and aquifer.

3 days ago

doggie park

3 days ago

Shade is important. If there is a way to integrate a swinging element I think that would be lovely.

3 days ago

Trees for shade

4 days ago

Make it a good alternative to Zilker, with playground, kayaking, hiking and other attractions

4 days ago

Plenty of shade structures. Walter E Long does not have very many shade trees near the water. Also, you have to plan for parking. I know no one wants an ugly parking garage, but visiting that facility will require families to DRIVE out there. Few will ride the bus, and regardless, the metro does not have service to most suburban areas. Please plan for parking. Also, please have plenty of ways to access the lake to play and swim in it, with boat ramps for personal watercraft. Retain plenty of open, natural space so that this isn't packed full of man-made "attractions."

10 days ago

Hiking trails

10 days ago

Shade and seating!

10 days ago

No oder ideas

10 days ago

Large rocks that mimic the mortar and pestles native Americans used to grind corn and other ingredients. Also, in order for this area to be used safely, it will need enough shade.

10 days ago

stocked fish pond

10 days ago

splash pad, learning features, mobility accessibility area is a must!!!

11 days ago

Negative

11 days ago

More Parking Options, Shades with sufficient seating. Better kids play areas and swings

12 days ago

Maybe some hollow wood music chimes would be interesting for kids.

14 days ago

Playground and shade

14 days ago

Adult/child tricycle SMALL/SHORT trials. Good for exercise for special needs adult children, seniors, small children. Trails where WTX special needs adult children/seniors can use short distances. They're Worksmans tricycles with wheelbarrow tires—I'm surprised bike shops here have never seen them nor know what they are— they have no chain and allows the rider to use their legs to peddle.

18 days ago

No

20 days ago

Via ferrata activities

20 days ago

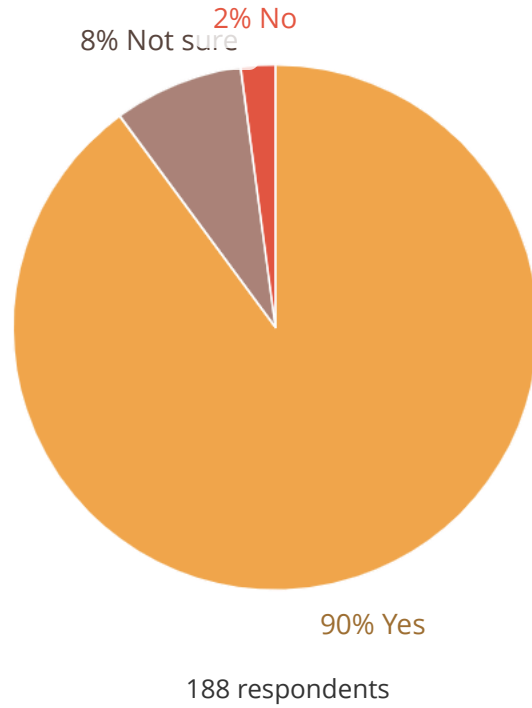
Scooter tracks would be awesome!

21 days ago

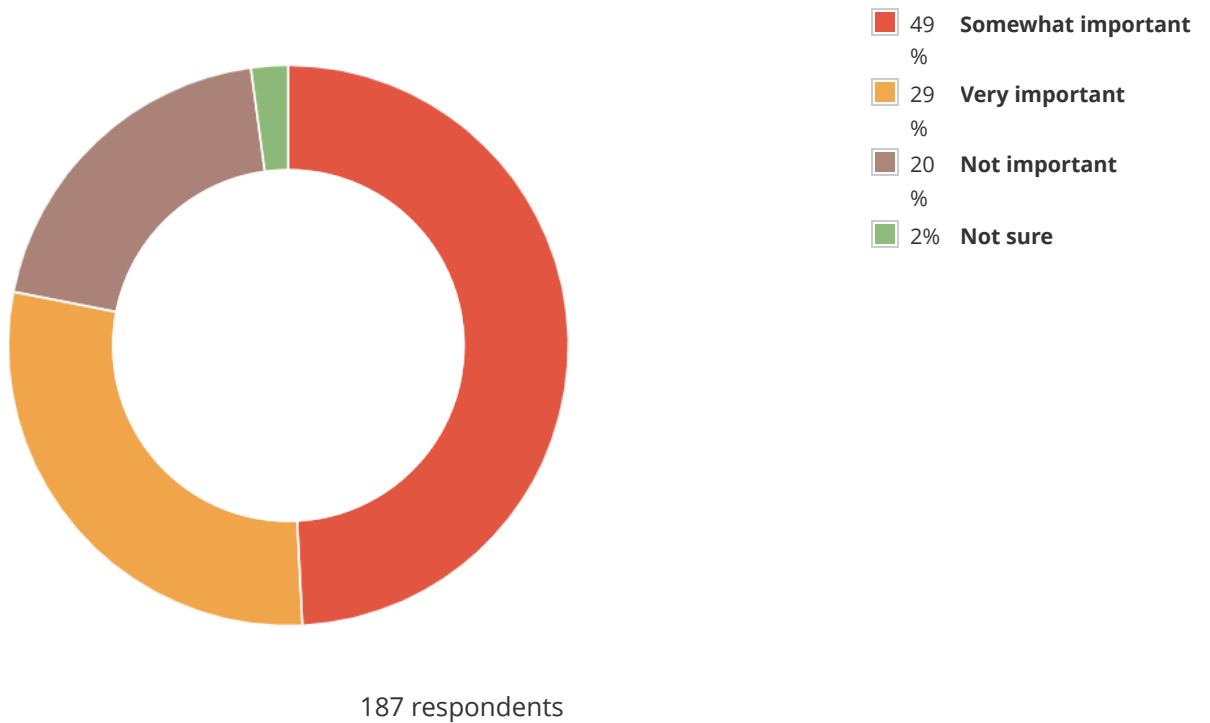
Not necessarily related to nature-play, but I really enjoyed the look and feel of Memorial Park in Houston <https://www.memorialparkconservancy.org/discover/master-plan/> I hope Walter E. Long Park can be as nice as Memorial Park.

21 days ago

Do you believe that nature play features can offer educational value such as learning about plants, wildlife, and ecosystems in a fun way?



How important are traditional play features to you when visiting a park?



Pick the top three traditional play features would you most like to see in the park?

80%	Climbing structure	132 ✓
77%	Swings	126 ✓
56%	Slide(s)	92 ✓
37%	Play hut	61 ✓
27%	Imaginary and sensory play panels	45 ✓
8%	Spinners	13 ✓

164 Respondents

Are there any other traditional play features you would like to see in the park?

Shade! Shade! Shade! (Also, because of the Texas heat, avoiding metal structures when possible.)

It's really nice to have a few smaller play areas rather than one large play area since it's easier to watch your kid. It also allows you to choose a different area if there are kids on one who aren't make unsafe choices and their caregivers are not paying much attention.

Pretend structures are fun too (like the Play for All Abilities Park).

18 days ago

6 Agree

Shade is a must in central Texas so the park can be enjoyed year round.

18 days ago

4 Agree

Adequate seating for parents/grandparents to supervise comfortably

10 days ago

3 Agree

Agree that shade is very important in Central Texas

2 days ago

Features that cater to all ages and abilities but that also allow for incorporated guardian/child interaction.

3 days ago

Monkey bars, balance beam

3 days ago

A variety of swing types, one a a baby and parent, the big circle disk, plenty of classic swings

3 days ago

Shade

4 days ago

I think "traditional" play features such as swings, slides, and climbing structures could be incorporated into nature play. I've seen some really cool natural climbing structures made of boulders and logs. Hill slides are amazing. Tree swings like at the Wildflower Center could be nice... or hammocks for gentle swinging... also, play huts such as teepee style or straw huts like the ones from Fortlandia could be nice.

5 days ago

Don't have traditional playground stuff out there. Kids get that at school, or in their neighborhood park.

10 days ago

Needs an off-leash dog area

10 days ago

mobility accessible for all

11 days ago

We need shade!

14 days ago

Shade

14 days ago

Would love to see separate, smaller play areas. Specifically a play area dedicated to small toddlers and infants.

14 days ago

No. My hope would be that no traditional play features are added.

18 days ago

Wide sidewalks, small variety shaped sidewalks for physically challenged and seniors to be able to enjoy with family —it's easier to walk a smaller area than a big long track type area.

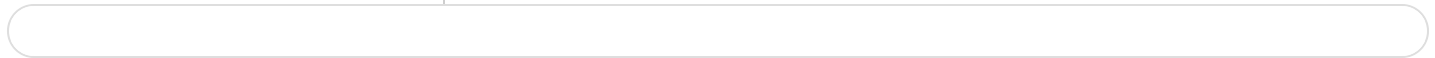
18 days ago

please consider imaginative playgrounds! Humble ISD has some good examples of good themes
<https://www.humbleisd.net/article/1139261>

21 days ago

What balance between nature and traditional play would you like to see in the park?

Average



Nature play features

Traditional play features

Any other thoughts about the future play features for the park that you would like to share?

Pease park and butler metro park are great. Combining features from those would a great. Splash pads are always nice to have.

21 days ago

8 Agree

We need shade during the summer. This can be trees or shade structures. I prefer trees and I prefer if the city maintained the trees after planting. Colony Park Neighborhood Park has many trees but they aren't maintained. The trees are all doing poorly!

21 days ago

6 Agree

Can you include cool/unique structures like the ones at Pease Park.

21 days ago

5 Agree

This is already probably part of the plan but bathrooms, water bottle refill stations, and trash cans make for a more enjoyable park.

18 days ago

4 Agree

The play structures at Easton Park are amazing. A large climbing, hit like structure would be so cool.

21 days ago

3 Agree

Please keep the park as-is and cater improvements around enhancing the existing layout, features, and design of the park. There are so many places in Austin that have playscapes or sculptures or extensive trails, and broken up areas. This park is my favorite because it's a quiet, simple, open space where you can see what's going on around you clearly. I also hope the guard structure continues to be manned. As a woman, it makes me feel safer visiting the park alone knowing there are staff onsite in case there's a problem.

18 days ago

2 Agree

Alliance Children's Garden in Butler Park just south of downtown is a great example.

21 days ago

2 Agree

Please include shade - either trees and/or artistic shade structures, especially for this park.

4 days ago

1 Agree

I love it when play features have a nod to the local community or wildlife native to the area. (Examples: the climbable salamanders at Butler Park, the waterfall and cave at the Wildflower Center's family garden area)

5 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Opportunities to interact with the existing natural features of the park (the woods, the water) would be more valuable long-term than constructed play features (whether traditional or nature play). Nature trails with rest areas/benches and educational signage, improved water access points, fishing docks would all be appreciated.

10 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Shade and a dog park

14 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Parks need to be designed and updated to include an equal display of sensory play panels to accommodate neurodiverse and disabled children as well. No parks currently are inclusive except for a swing or two which is not nearly enough for today's community needs, parents and kids who don't fit into traditional mold.

14 days ago

👍 1 Agree

no

12 minutes ago

Some seating areas for parents, I like how meanwhile brewery has many picnic tables in the shade right next to the playground which also has a bridge. It's a playground for kids of all ages, parents can sit nearby and I've seen many kids birthday parties held there. I would love a place nearby where you could have a casual kids birthday gathering like at meanwhile brewery

yesterday

I was surprised that amenities such as a skate park and/or dirt biking course were not mentioned in this survey, nor anything focused on teens/adults such as pickleball. It seems only focused on young children.

2 days ago

Shade structures, accessible restrooms, drinking water stations for people and pets and service animals, interactive art, receptacles for trash and recycling and compost, native species landscaping and xeriscaping, solar powered night sky friendly lighting, accessible outlets, water catchment.

3 days ago

Incorporate plenty of park benches and shade for parents, and picnic tables. Easy access to trash cans to help keep park clean, a pavillion with picnic tables near play area for birthday parties, access to clean well lit restrooms.

3 days ago

Water elements like splash pads are important as our summers get hotter.

3 days ago

Swimming! I know the city has struggled to get enough lifeguards but swimming is my favorite way to exercise and unlike trails where most people tap out at a certain temperature, swimming is a relief in summer!

4 days ago

no

10 days ago

Needs an off-leash dog area - there are not enough on the east side

10 days ago

Parks need to be designed and updated to include an equal display of sensory play panels to accommodate neurodiverse and disabled children as well. No parks currently are inclusive of these except for a swing or two which is not acceptable for today's community needs, parents and kids

14 days ago

Splash pad

18 days ago

Mix it up, if there's big open areas for example soccer it'll be most likely used only by soccer players and not the in between persons that want to and need to exercise but either are in the beginning stages or need smaller time outdoors—too many people need natural vitamin d but can't handle being outdoors too long.

18 days ago

Easy Via Ferrata for kids and adults

20 days ago

Do you have any other comments about the park in general?

I would love a loop that goes around the entire lake or park area so I can have a place to walk my dogs that isn't a neighborhood. Bonus points if it has lights so it can be enjoyed in the dark hours before work!

21 days ago

👍 10 Agree

Complete the walking/biking trails WITH shade first and add more walk in only entrances for the local community. Add dog waste baskets along the trail. Maybe some nice sitting areas overlooking the lake

21 days ago

👍 9 Agree

Would love to see a dog park, divided among big dog and small dog sections, with shade. Also would love to have a loop trail that goes around the entire lake. Multiple entry points and parking areas would be convenient.

21 days ago

👍 7 Agree

This is a great idea and hopefully it will help people keep dogs leashed outside the dog park area

4 days ago

We need trees! Please consider planting as many shade trees as possible, especially near play areas and trails. The Texas summers make these public places unusable if there isn't shade.

21 days ago

⬆️ 6 Agree

It would be great to get the park connected to surrounding neighborhoods and trails accessible by bike or on foot. Decker can be very dangerous to cross to get there and it would alleviate needs for wasteful parking lots.

14 days ago

⬆️ 4 Agree

Please add some trails!!!

20 days ago

⬆️ 2 Agree

Include wheelchair friendly options and accessible play

21 days ago

⬆️ 2 Agree

Safety is paramount. We need a safe place to walk, ride bikes. An area to enjoy the lake would be excellent!

21 days ago

⬆️ 2 Agree

Shelter volunteers often come to this park with dogs that want more quiet time. It's nice for the trails to be wide and not as bendy so we can anticipate others coming and go into a hiding spot or another route. Please consider this when planning future trails or identify trails that are 1 way only.

3 days ago

⬆️ 1 Agree

Get something done then come and get busy on Treveno Park

3 days ago

⬆️ 1 Agree

Generally having a loop around the park would be most incredible to east Austin residents. A longer running/biking trail would be incredible. Currently, the main "running trails" that loop are Butler around Lady Bird.

4 days ago

⬆️ 1 Agree

More hiking trails and an area for an off-leash dog park

4 days ago

⬆️ 1 Agree

SHADE!!! I cannot stress enough how important this is.

7 days ago

⬆️ 1 Agree

Shade. Parking. Various locations for easy access to the lake for swimming, kayaking, boating and fishing. Lots of families come out there and spend the whole day and into the evening... bringing food to cook on the grills, etc. Hopefully that will still be available as well!

10 days ago

⬆️ 1 Agree

Please keep safety a top priority.

10 days ago

⬆️ 1 Agree

Hike and bike trail around the lake with as much shade as possible would be the best use.

11 days ago

👍 1 Agree

better and more restroom facilities. maybe an outdoor shower by the lake swimming area. please add lots of pavilions and/or shade for families to picnic.

11 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Would love to hike/bike along the water. It's such a beautiful area around the water edge but most of it is unreachable (from what I've seen).

17 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Please preserve what the park is right now and enhance existing features. I love that even on more crowded days, I can find quiet corners to work with my anxious dog and I love that this is the only public space in Austin where leash laws seem to largely be obeyed. I would love to see park staff continue to enforce those.

18 days ago

👍 1 Agree

This! Leash laws exist for a reason!

4 days ago

👍 1 Agree

We really enjoy the Mueller park area near the event side. It's nice because it has some open areas, a small walking path, shaded play structures, a splash pad, bathrooms, a dog park, a volleyball court, and so much more - it's just small so hopefully that's not an issue for Walter E. Long.

18 days ago

👍 1 Agree

I would like to see:

- a nice bike trail
- hammocking area
- fire pits
- kayaking
- Flowers

20 days ago

👍 1 Agree

We really want a safe and beautiful place to run and play. We want trails to walk our dogs. We want green areas to enjoy.

21 days ago

👍 1 Agree

On leash dogs only please

4 days ago

Dog park or walking trails

21 days ago

👍 1 Agree

Making the park walkable with trails and multiple trail access should be part of any initial planning.

21 days ago

👍 1 Agree

no

12 minutes ago

please don't make it another event venue.

5 hours ago

Safe parking and shade features

yesterday

A boat ramp on the opposite side of the park

2 days ago

More access to the lake for Kayaks and make the lake electric motors only

2 days ago

I don't believe it's part of Phase 1, but a disc golf course should be put in at Walter E. Long sooner rather than later. Like, now. Like, yesterday. It's really not that hard to do. PARD has a team for this, and there are groups that will also volunteer time and work.

2 days ago

I am an older person who likes to fish and I want to feel safe by myself at the park to do so.

2 days ago

it would be fabulous to provide composting education, collections and processes. Walking trails for people and dogs to walk 5-10k distances. Dog park that has an fetch area with limited dog access where people working on socializing dogs can to wear them out and allow the dogs to greet other dogs through the fence/safe environment. There are lots of suggestions already mentioned that I agree with but adding things I did not see listed.

3 days ago

Community garden.

3 days ago

Multilingual and braille signage for directional and educational purposes.

3 days ago

More hiking trails.

3 days ago

Your finest stewardship for nature and human health is to keep the park natural and to encourage wildlife and not to develop features or add equipment that is counterintuitive to keeping the park beautifully natural. Spend time and money restoring parts of park back to what it looked like before the cattle grazed away the meadows, restore the native plants, allow tree limbs to fall and rot naturally as they house animals and encourage insects and birds. This is the finest hour to keep this extraordinary park natural and will be legacy that gives to the community for many generations.

3 days ago

It's very important that this park have clear signage that indicates that off leash dogs are not allowed. It's critical for safety.

4 days ago

Wide multi use trail. Dog park with shade and lake access.

4 days ago

Raise awareness of the park and its facilities.

4 days ago

no

10 days ago

Needs amenities such as permitted concessions, multiple bathrooms, and an off-leash dog area

10 days ago

I would love to see an area where parents can check out a fort-building kit that has bamboo poles, canvas tarps and tree-friendly straps (or something like that); hopefully trees can be planted in a way that creates a forest area that would work well for this kind of activity.

10 days ago

Add trails

10 days ago

I would like it to be a safe and clean place with lots of shades.

13 days ago

Please utilize play for all abilities concepts

14 days ago

Make it appealing to those that haven't been outdoors much—colorful, fun, family oriented, benches, cameras, inviting for seniors, elderly, physically challenged, mid age adults that need exercise, or just looking at the scenery.

18 days ago

A trail that circles the lake would be amazing!

18 days ago

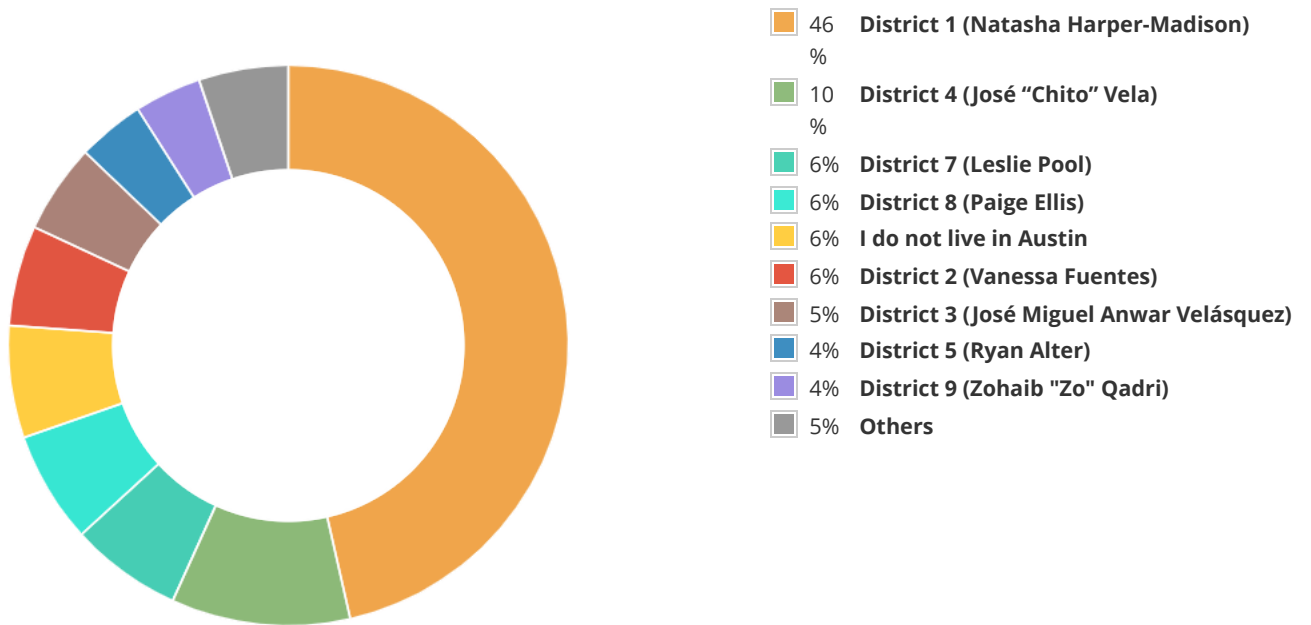
I would love to see as much current flora stay in place as possible. Less intrusive paths where possible and keep all the trees.

21 days ago

A walking trail along the perimeter of the lake would be great. (Similar to the Lady Bird Lake trail)

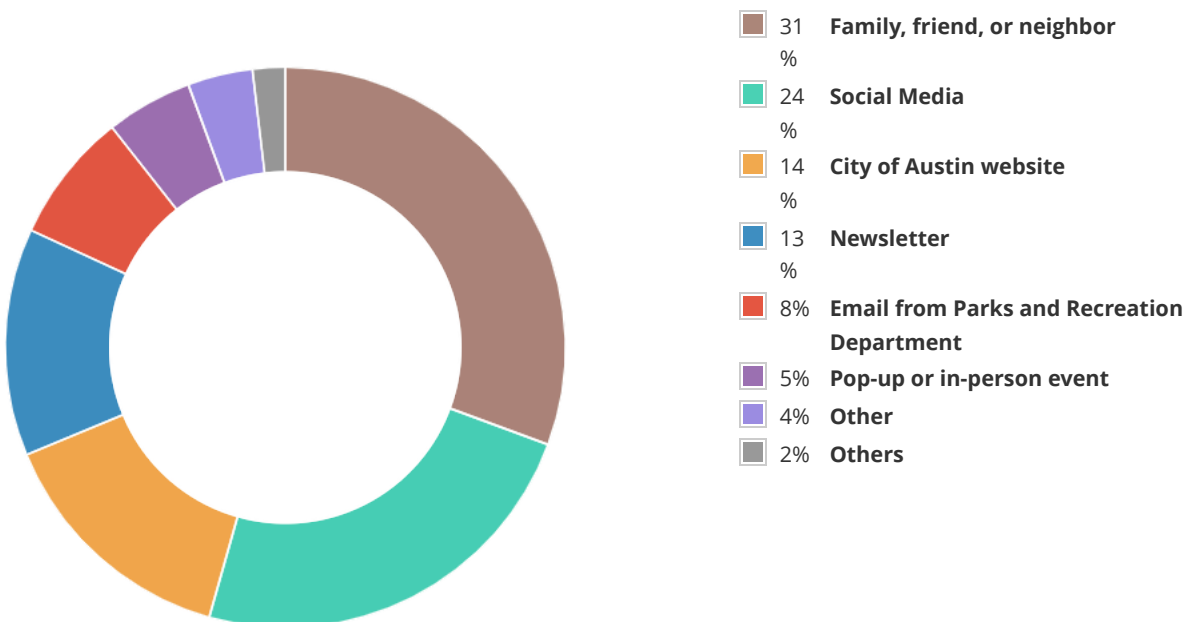
21 days ago

What City Council District do you live in?



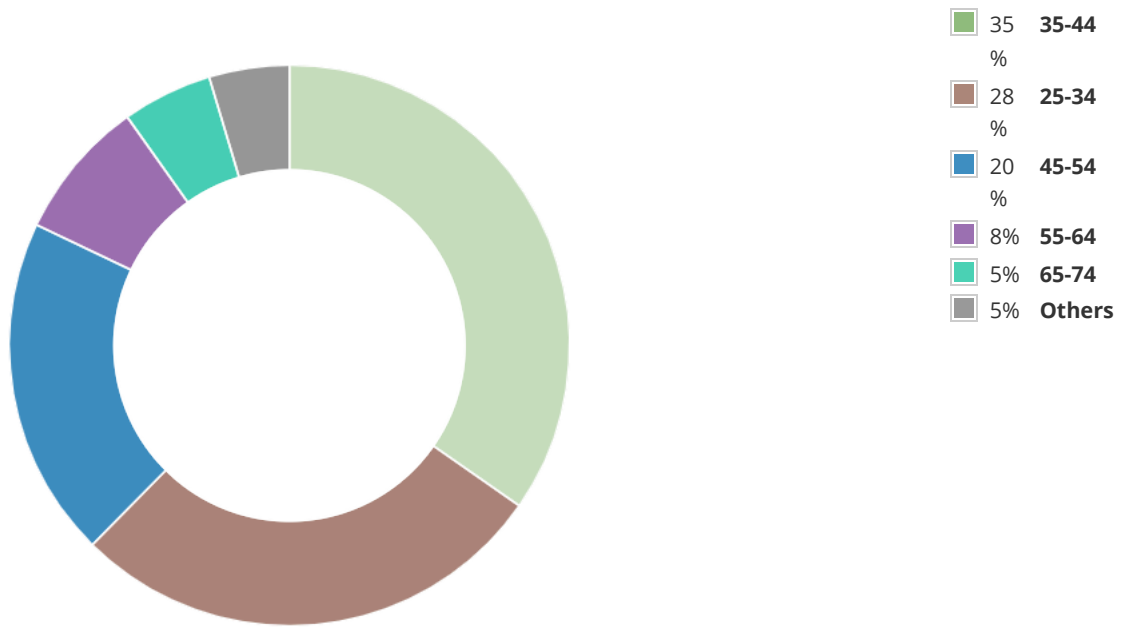
155 respondents

How did you hear about the project?



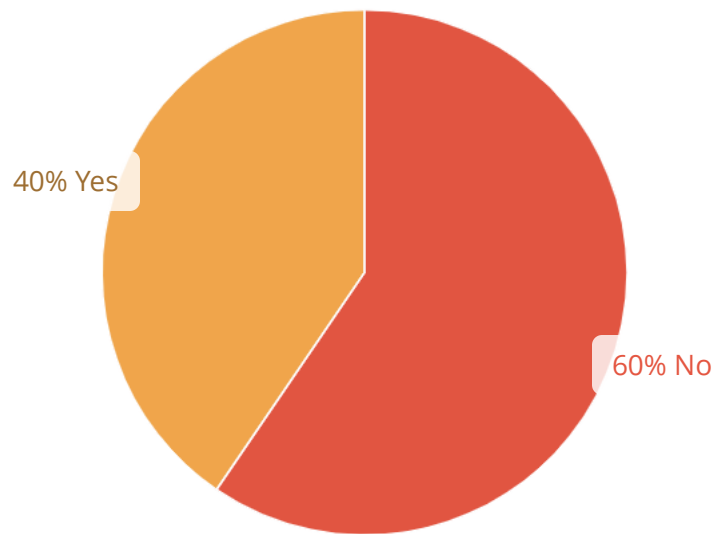
160 respondents

What is your age range?



173 respondents

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



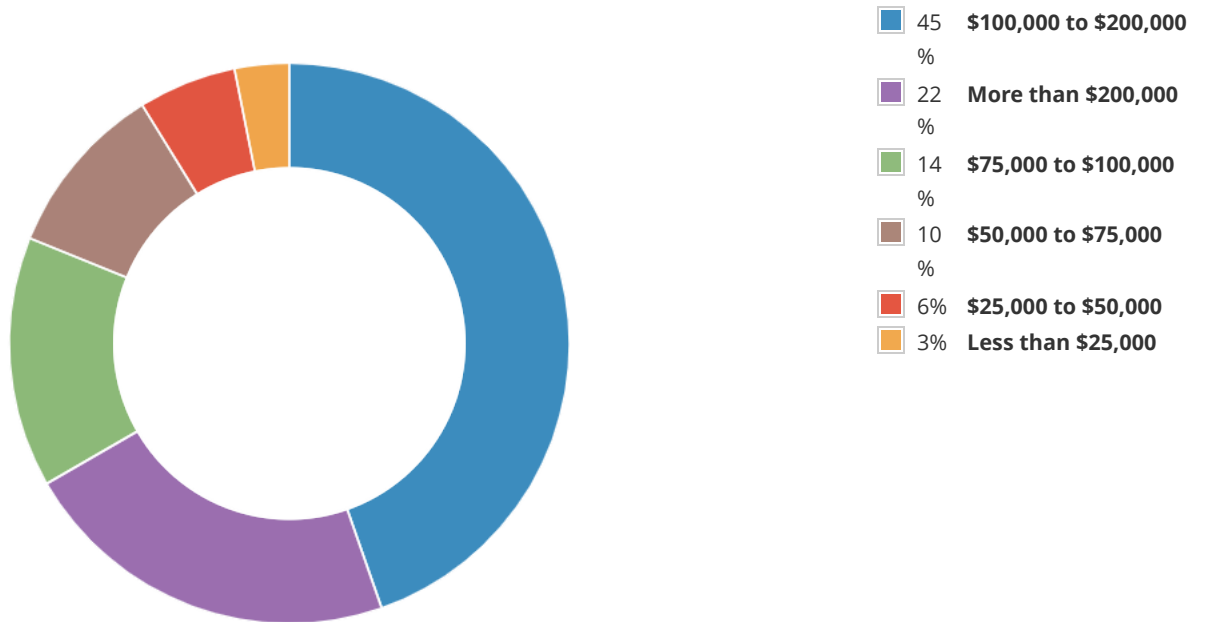
168 respondents

What is your race/ethnicity?

62%	White	91 ✓
27%	Hispanic or Latinx	39 ✓
10%	Asian or Asian American	15 ✓
3%	Black or African-American	5 ✓
3%	Race or ethnicity not listed. I identify as:	5 ✓
1%	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	2 ✓
1%	American Indian or Alaska Native	1 ✓

146 Respondents

What is your annual household income?



159 respondents

What language is spoken at home?

93%	English	154 ✓
15%	Spanish	25 ✓
5%	Other	8 ✓
2%	French	3 ✓
1%	Arabic	2 ✓
1%	Chinese (Cantonese)	1 ✓
1%	Chinese (Mandarin)	1 ✓
1%	Prefer not to say	1 ✓
0%	Korean	0 ✓
0%	Vietnamese	0 ✓

165 Respondents

Comments: Walter E. Long Metro Park Play Survey 1 Pop Up at Overton Roots and Wings Festival