

Summary of Second Public Meeting

Tuesday, April 3, 2018

The Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt master plan initiative aims to develop a park plan for the 206-acre greenbelt by summer 2018. In order to reach this goal, a total of three public meetings will be held in East Austin to determine area residents' priorities for the greenbelt.

The first public meeting was held the afternoon of Saturday, February 25, 2018 at Givens Recreation Center and had forty attendees.

The second public meeting was held the evening of Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at Pecan Springs Elementary School, and had twenty-five attendees. The meeting included a brief presentation and seven public input stations. The stations were staffed by community planners from National Park Service RTCA (Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program), Pecan Springs-Springdale Neighborhood Association (PSSNA) volunteers, Families in Nature staff, and Asakura Robinson's director of urban design. The venue was provided by the Austin Independent School District and refreshments were donated by PSSNA.

Presentation (5:00-1:15 pm):

NPS staff provided a brief overview of the park, highlighting its current conditions, potential, and the planning process. The presentation also summarized the feedback gathered through the first public meeting and ongoing community survey.

Stations (5:15-7:00pm):

Station one presented general information about the greenbelt and the planning process.

In **station two**, participants ranked the priorities they believe are most important to consider when creating the Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt park plan. Votes and comments included in page two.

Station three allowed participants to suggest programming and activities for park users of different ages and with different interests. Results in page three.

Station four, prepared by Asakura Robinson, included a large-format map of the greenbelt with suggested access points. Participants were invited to comment on the feel, appearance, and ideal location of these gateways. Results in pages four and five.

Station five, prepared Families in Nature, allowed adults and children to get to know the nature and wildlife of the region and greenbelt. Participants were able to touch, feel, and learn about plant and animal species present in this area.

Station six, also prepared and staffed by Families in Nature, allowed children to discuss and draw the greenbelt improvements they would like. Common themes included play areas, creek access, and trails. Some of the children's drawings are included in page six.

Station seven included a second large map of the greenbelt and a large blank sheet for participants to contribute any additional comments not captured in the other stations. Most of these comments identified desired amenities and trail designs, closely resembling responses to the trail and amenities stations in the first public meeting. Comments are included in page seven.

Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt

Master Plan Initiative | *Iniciativa de Planificación*

Priorities | *Prioridades*

Feedback from the first meeting revealed that different priorities exist for the Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt. For example, while some future users want to see more recreational use along the creek, others want the creek area to remain untouched; some people would prefer the area to remain as natural as possible while others would prefer increased access and a robust trail network.

5 IS MOST IMPORTANT

1 IS LEAST IMPORTANT

Los comentarios de la primera reunión revelan que existen diferentes prioridades para el parque. Algunas personas quisieran ver más usos recreativos en el área del riachuelo, pero otros prefieren que esta área se deje intacta; algunos quisieran que que el parque permanezca en su estado natural actual, sin embargo hay otras personas que preferirían más puntos de acceso y una red más amplia de senderos.

Which of the following are your priorities for the Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt?

¿Cuáles son sus prioridades para el parque Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt?

Identify them using the numbered dots provided, with 5 for the most important and 1 for the least important. Use post-its to add any comments or other priorities.

Identifíquelas con los puntos numerados. Utilice el 5 para la prioridad más importante y el 1 para la menos importante. Agregue comentarios utilizando notas adhesivas.

Increased Access *Mayor acceso*

Parking lots, additional entrances, bus stops
Estaciónamiento, más entradas, paradas de camión

Sum: 72

5s: 3, 4s: 3

3s: 12

2s: 3, 1s: 3

- Need connectivity to Walnut Creek Trail
- Trails to Tannehill, Northeast Dr, Rogge Ln, Norwood Hill
- Connect Norwood Hill Rd to enter park
- Bike racks

Conserve Natural Environment *Conservar Ambiente Natural*

Limit park development, designate areas to conserve
Limitar el desarrollo del parque, designar áreas de conservación

Sum: 78

5s: 11, 4s: 1

3s: 1

2s: 5, 1s: 3

Additional Trails *Más senderos*

More natural or paved trails
Más senderos naturales o pavimentados

Sum: 78

5s: 6, 4s: 4

3s: 7

2s: 4, 1s: 3

- No need to create additional trails, just pave some or grade to protect from erosion
- Improve trail system with an emphasis on erosion-resistant trail-building techniques.
- Improve trails for hiking and mountain biking.
- Access north across creek.
- Trail to Loyola to increase mobility to University Hills.

Water Quality/Stream Health *Calidad de agua y del riachuelo*

Protect/restore creek, limit foot and vehicle traffic near creek
Proteger/restaurar riachuelo, limitar tránsito cerca del riachuelo

Sum: 70

5s: 0, 4s: 13

3s: 2

2s: 5

1s: 2

- Keep dogs away from creek.
- Need access to creek to explore nature.

Park Development *Desarrollo del parque*

Playgrounds, recreation facilities, restrooms, water
Áreas de juegos, instalaciones recreativas, baños, agua

Sum: 69

5s: 6, 4s: 4

3s: 2

2s: 5, 1s: 7

- Outdoor water showers that people can cool off in during the summer
- Disc golf
- Bathrooms
- Water feature pond/fountain
- Swimming pool or splash pad

Other Priorities *Otras prioridades*

- Riding trails for horses
- Wildlife, tree and plant monitoring
- Prioritize improving biodiversity, tie wildlife monitoring to family outings

Park activities can play a key role in turning little-used parks into cherished community destinations. Successful and inclusive park programming provides engaging educational and recreational options for all age groups.

Las actividades en los parques son importantes para hacer que los parques desconocidos se vuelvan destinos populares para la comunidad. La programación exitosa del parque debe tomar en cuenta actividades educativas y recreativas para todas las edades.

What are some activities or programs which could get the people below to visit and enjoy the Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt?

¿Qué actividades o programas convencerían a estos usuarios a visitar y disfrutar el parque Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt?

Families

- Species identification trail with labels synced with app like i-Naturalist
- Bird blind - collaborate with Travis Audubon Society (2)
- Hike-and-learn trails
- Family fitness
- Playground (2)
- Movies in the park
- Guided nature walks (2)
- Picnic area (2)
- Multi-use stage area for events
- Orienteering
- Interpretive signage (2)
- Bouldering
- Lean-to or simple shelter
- Disc golf
- Pet-friendly areas
- Vista points
- Native plant groves
- Native prairie education
- Places to see the creek (with low impact to habitat)

Children

- Signage
- Orienteering
- Park ranger-type programming
- Clean facilities
- Hiking (2)
- Natural play area
- Disc golf
- Nature education (plants, animals, riparian ecosystem)
- Splash pad
- Playground
- Afterschool and weekend programming
- Species identification
- Sports fields (2)
- Nature trails
- Outdoor classroom (2)

Adults

- Bioblitz wildlife and tree surveys - could be part of Nature in the City Challenge (2)
- Hike and bike soft trails
- Walking trails (2)
- Hike and bike trails (2)
- Dog park
- Board game tables
- Exercise equipment
- Dog run
- Shower
- Bathroom (2)
- Sports fields
- Disc golf
- Amphitheater
- Safe spaces for homeless to be
- Off-leash dog area
- Trail markers (2)
- Educational signage
- Birding
- Picnic area

Seniors

- Seating (2)
- Vista points
- Clean and accessible facilities
- Bird watching classes
- Nature walks
- Gently sloped paths (2)
- Hiking days coordinated with senior citizen homes
- Accessible trails
- Disc golf
- Trails separate from mountain bikers
- No disc golf (already available at Bartholomew)



Which trailhead would you arrive at?

- Trailhead 1: 7 votes
- Trailhead 2: 6 votes
- Trailhead 3: 9 votes
- Trailhead 4: 4 votes
- Trailhead 5: 4 votes

What do you want to do once you get there?

- Mountain bike (4 votes)
- Hike (5 votes)
- Single-track trails, not big concrete urban trails (2 votes)
- Walk dog
- Off-leash dog areas
- Dog park
- Birdwatch (2 votes)
- Sit
- Listen to music
- Take pictures

Do the entries have names?

- Yes, local flora/fauna names (3 votes)
- Yes, named after natural features like "Cedar Elm - West entry" or instead perhaps the trails have names that correspond with the entrance names. (2 votes)
- Geographically-orienting names (direction and street names) (2 votes)

What do you see when you arrive?

Signage (6)
Bike racks (4)
Maps (2)
Benches
Cooling off showers
Shade structures
Doggy bag dispenser
Bathroom
Water fountains
Trailhead
Vegetation

Which entrance is the main entrance?

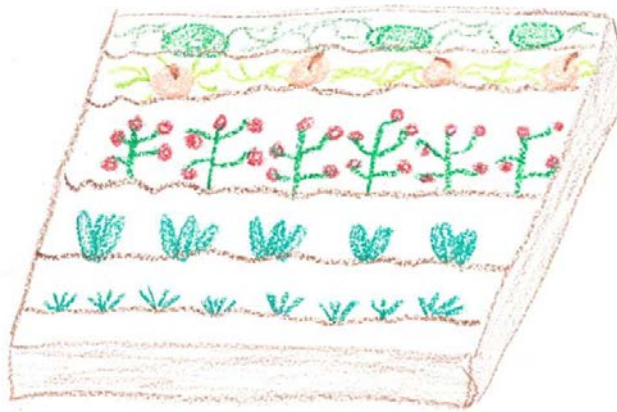
- Trailhead 1: 3 votes
- Trailhead 2: 3 votes
- Trailhead 3: 6 votes
- Trailhead 4: 3 votes
- Trailhead 5: 3 votes

Which style of trail and trail head is the best fit for Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt?



- Style 1: 2 likes, 1 dislike
- Style 2: 1 like
- Style 3: 1 like, 1 dislike
- Style 4: 1 like
- Style 5: 3 likes
- Style 6: 3 likes
- Natural, rugged, modern, Rustic.
- Should blend in, not stand out.
- Should have clear symbols.

Station 6: Children's Vision for the Greenbelt



A hiking trail that goes straight and then turns



Cecily, 4

Station 7: General Comments

Sorted by Theme

Trails

Add a section of the park dedicated to BMX trails of different difficulties.

Natural surface trails (2)

Mountain bike trails in steeper areas

Mile markers on trail

Trail maps

Accessible sections

Designated biking and hiking areas

Minimal paving

Paved path from Springdale to Rangoon

Creek access

Allow off-leash dogs

No off-leash dogs

Amenities

Designated dog park to protect native wildlife (3)

Drinking fountains (2)

Bathrooms (2)

Parking

Recreational Fields

Playground

Tower viewing area

Bird blinds for bird watching

Emergency Phones

Panic button

Partnerships

Collaborate with AISD and environmental education groups

Archaeology and artifact walks with local geologists

Arrangement to use trails going through land belonging to The Reserve/ESC Region 13

Contact local mountain bikers to design trail

Access

Connect to Walnut Creek Trail (2)

Connect to East Link.

Crosswalk near 51st St and Rangoon

Park Development

Keep as natural as possible (5)

Create thorough conservation and impact mitigation plan prior to any development.

Keep development/amenities near 51st St

Ensure 183S Project people restore affected habitat

Habitat restoration and removal of invasives

Allow commercial development in periphery to pay for park maintenance and amenities

Long-term monitoring