



Summary Report of Community Meeting #1

March 7, 2023

Community Engagement

Austin Parks Foundation is partnering with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department and the community to design a Concept Plan for Grand Meadow Neighborhood Park. An important priority is to gather community feedback and public input to shape the vision planning process.

Prior to the first meeting, Austin Parks Foundation placed signs around the park informing neighbors of the upcoming Community Meeting #1 and coordinated with members of PARD to update the COA website with relevant information. Members of the Park Design Committee also reached out to the surrounding community to spread the word by passing out flyers, emailing content, and posting to social media.



Austin Parks Foundation, the City of Austin's Parks & Recreation Department and Friends of Grand Meadow Park are holding the first virtual public input meeting for the future Concept Plan. Existing park conditions will be discussed, and the public can weigh in on park amenities that they would like to see.

Fundación de Parques de Austin, El Departamento de Parques y Recreación de la Ciudad de Austin y Los Amigos de Grand Meadow Parque llevarán a cabo la primera reunión virtual de aportes públicos para el futuro plan conceptual. Se discutirán las condiciones existentes del parque y el público puede dar su opinión sobre las comodidades del parque que les gustaría ver.

Join us and help shape the future of this community gem!

¡Únase a nosotros y ayude a dar forma al futuro de esta joya comunitaria!

PUBLIC INPUT MEETING #1

REUNIÓN DE OPINIÓN PÚBLICA #1

Tuesday, March 7 | 6:00-7:00pm
To join virtually, please visit:

Martes 7 de Marzo | 6:00-7:00pm
Para unirse virtualmente, visite:



austintexas.gov/GrandMeadowPark

austintexas.gov/GrandMeadowPark



Community Meeting #1

The first community meeting was held virtually from 6:00pm - 7:00pm on Tuesday, March 7th. The agenda for the meeting included a high level overview of Austin Parks Foundation and the Park Vision Planning process, a review of the existing park conditions, and an introduction of the



community survey. After the formal presentation, members of APF and PARD answered questions from community members. The survey was open to the public immediately following the conclusion of the virtual meeting.

Project Introduction

During the project introduction, members of APF gave an overview of Austin Parks Foundation's mission to make parks healthier, safer and more accessible for every Austinite. They also introduced APF's Park Design Services. Friends of Grand Meadow, a stewardship organization dedicated to building community around the park was also introduced as the Park Design Committee. Their group will be responsible for engaging the local community in the process.

Grand Meadow Neighborhood Park will undergo APF's Overall Park Planning process. This year-long process guides the Adopt-A-Park group through a visioning process to create a Park Concept Plan that will be submitted to the City of Austin for official adoption. Community outreach is crucial to the design process and will be facilitated through three community meetings and a series of public surveys. All project information can be found on the project webpage hosted by PARD.

The presentation also clearly outlined project roles as seen below:

Parks and Recreation	Austin Parks Foundation	Park Design Committee	Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land owner • Ensure process complies with COA standards • Final decision • Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leading effort: community engagement and design • Support parks in Austin • Main point of contact during process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Adopt-A-Park Group • Stewardship of the park • Outreach for community engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in public process to voice preferences in future park development

Existing Park Conditions

Once the project was introduced, APF gave an overview of the site context and existing conditions at Grand Meadow Park.

Located at 8022 Thaxton Drive, this nearly ten-acre property, designated as a wildflower meadow, is surrounded by single-family homes. This park is relatively flat and open with trees along the edges of the property.



Sidewalks currently run along Thaxton Rd., Pandero Dr., and Alum Rock Dr.. There is currently no parking on-site, but there are three bus stops located at the north, south, and west edges of Grand Meadow Park. A monument sign is located at the northwestern corner of the site, as well as a small nature play area on the western edge of the park, and a large mechanical structure at the northern edge.

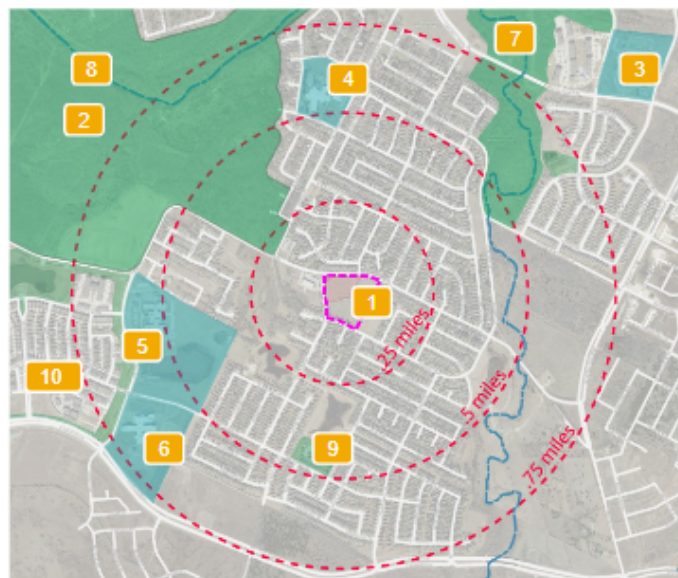
Current Conditions



The park is located in a primarily single-family neighborhood. Blazier Elementary, Blazier Intermediate, Palm Elementary, and Hillcrest Elementary Schools are all within 1 mile of the project. Onion Creek Metro Park, Marble Creek Metro, and Mckinney Heights Park, and several other green spaces are also in close proximity.

Site Context

1. Grand Meadow Park
2. Onion Creek Metro Park
3. Hillcrest Elementary School
4. Palm Elementary School
5. Blazier Elementary School
6. Blazier Intermediate School
7. Marble Creek Greenbelt
8. Onion Creek
9. Mckinney Heights Park
10. Goodnight Ranch





Before introducing the survey, APF outlined the typical elements of Neighborhood Park as:

- Backbone of Austin's park system
- Respond to demographic and cultural characteristics of neighborhoods
- Provide basic recreational opportunities close to home
- Ideally, all citizens have easy access to a neighborhood park within one-mile of their residences
- 2-30 acres in size
- Traditional recreation opportunities such as playgrounds, basketball and tennis courts, open play areas, and picnic tables
- Less traditional recreation opportunities such as wildflowers, native plants, less intensive maintenance techniques
- Does not typically include: dog parks, splash pads, pools

Community Survey

Instructions on how to access the community survey were then provided, followed by an introduction to some of the programming elements included in the survey.

The survey was open to the public on the COA webpage (<https://www.austintexas.gov/GrandMeadowPark>) from March 7th-March 31st. A total of 82 responses were submitted.

Results

The first goal of the survey was to gain a better understanding of the community demographics. Some of the key demographic findings were as follows:

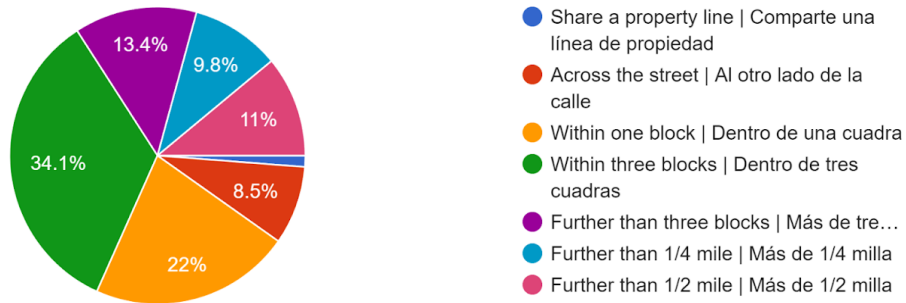
- Most survey participants heard about this project from their neighbors, Friends of Grand Meadow, or from the NextDoor app.
- Approximately 56% of participants have children between the ages of 0-18 living in their households.
- Children between ages 2-5 years were the most common among survey participants.
- Over 92% of survey respondents own a house or duplex.
- Aside from Grand Meadow Park, Onion Creek Metro was the most popular park used by families in this neighborhood. Onion Creek Metro park is located within a half mile of Grand Meadow Park. It has a large trail system, open play fields, parking, and a soccer complex.

Samples of the content are below:



Where do you live in relation to the park? | ¿Dónde vives en relación con el parque?

82 responses



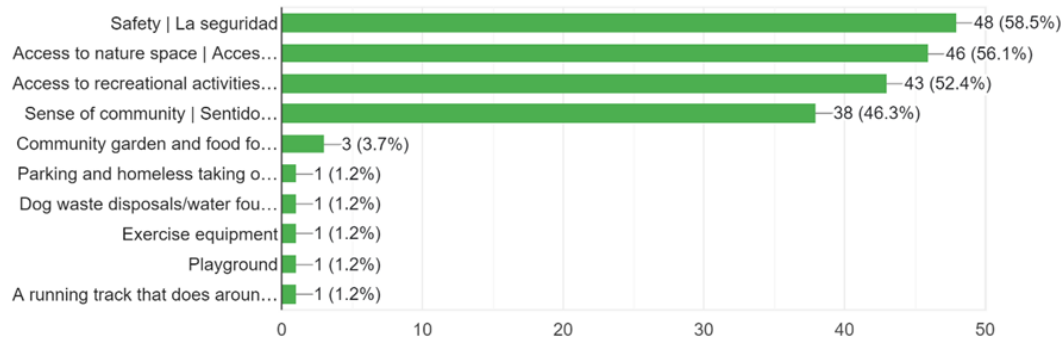
Another goal of the survey was to gather content on what the top values and priorities are for the park among the community. The key demographic findings were as follows:

- Safety was the most important value among respondents. Thorny vegetation, adequate lighting, fencing, and general protection from busy roads were all top concerns.
- A loop trail was the most popular option for park elements. Additional shade, picnic areas, shaded seating, and trees were all popular responses.
- A strong focus on preserving and including natural elements in the park was also consistent throughout the survey. Preserving existing wildflowers, planting more trees, and keeping impervious cover to a minimum were among top desires for the park.
- The addition of a community garden and food forest were also among the top priorities for the park. APF will study options for how to best incorporate these uses while still incorporating other popular elements.

Samples of the content are below:

Which value is most important to you for the future park? | ¿Qué valor es más importante para ti para el futuro parque?

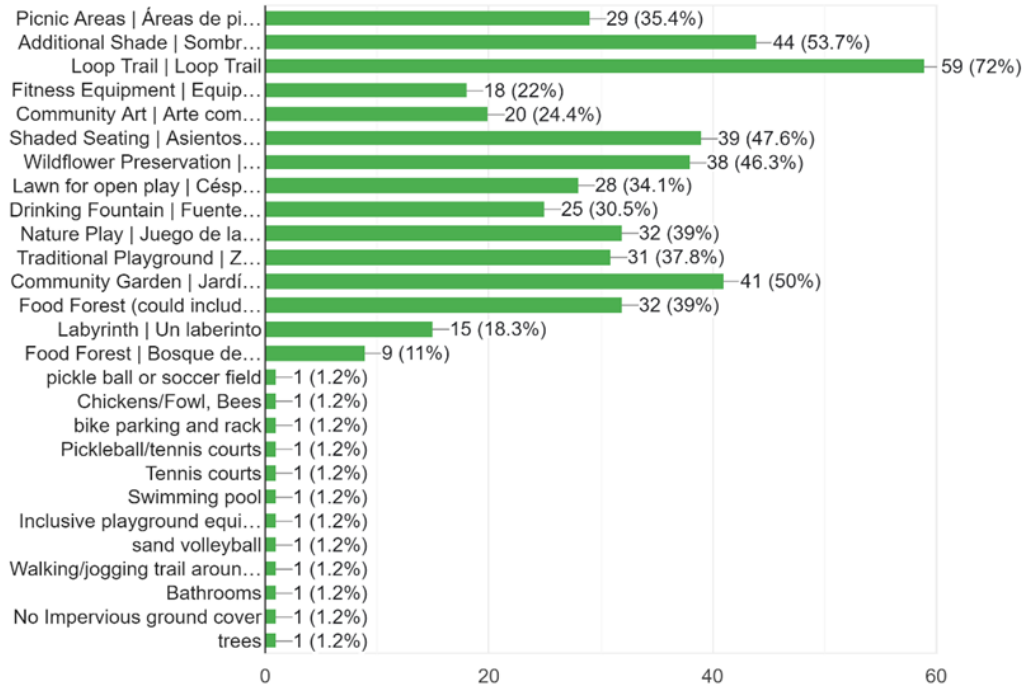
82 responses





Which park elements would you most like to see included in the park? Check your Top 5 | ¿Qué elementos del parque te gustaría ver incluidos en el parque? Revisa tus 5 principales

82 responses



Most importantly, the online survey results indicate that the public envision Grand Meadow Park should ultimately reflect their community, provide a safe place to exercise, bring children to play, and gather. Access to nature was further stressed as an important value along with providing the community with access to a variety of recreational opportunities.