

Presentation to
The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Board
by Rich DePalma, Board Member

September 2, 2020



NO SKATEBOARDS

But where can SKATEBOARDERS,
INLINE Skaters, ROLLER SKATERS &
BMX RIDERS GO WITHOUT A CAR?

A fall Friday night in Austin

October 27, 2017 @ 7:17pm



Skate Park

Kasmiersky Wheeled Sports Plaza Conroe, Texas

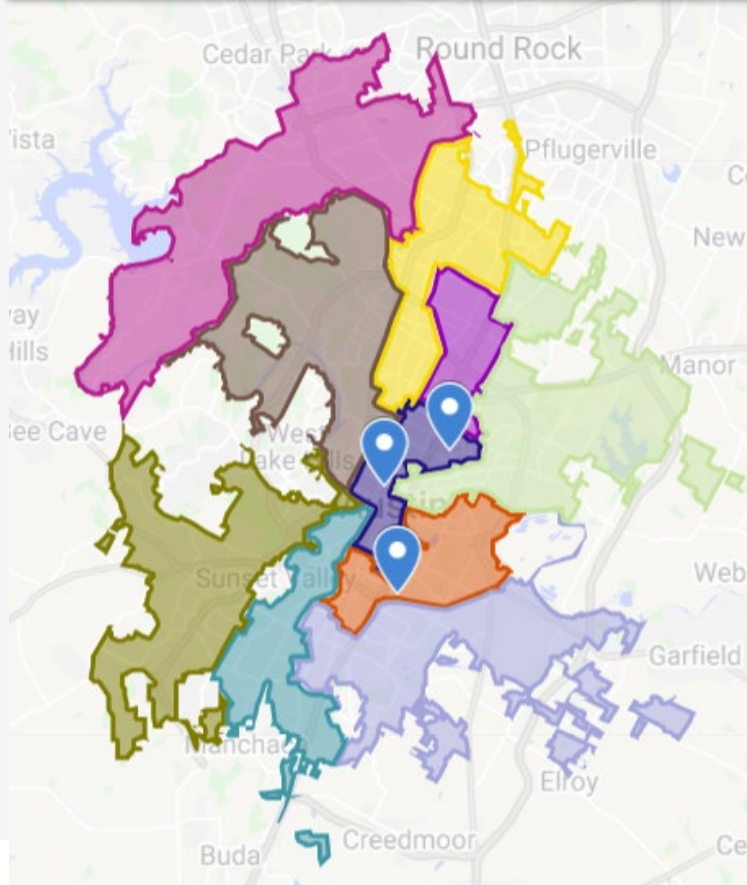
Fostering a love for nature in unique ways.



Quick Review

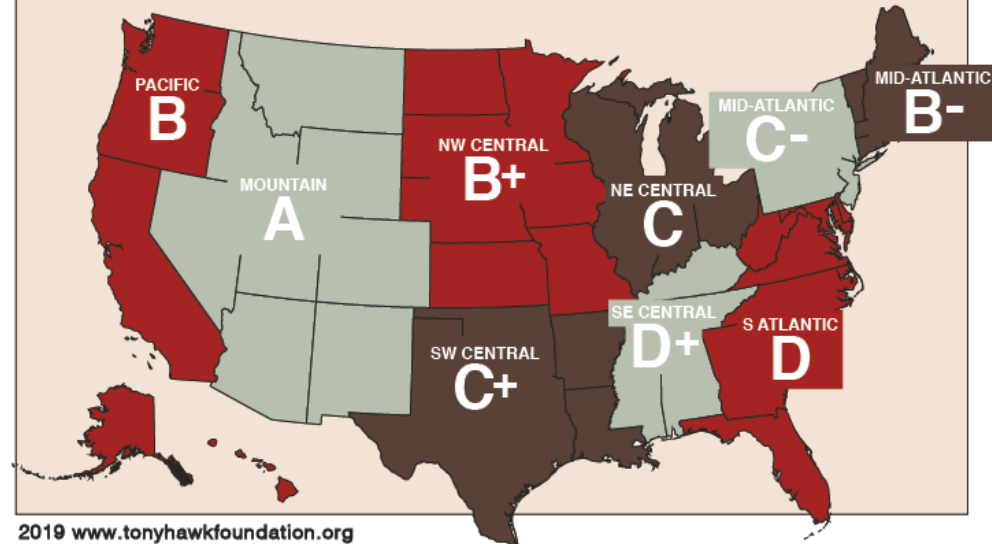
Estimated 3,500 skateparks in the United States

3 in Austin – Mabel Davis District Park, Heath Eiland and Morgan Moss BMX Skate Park, and Patterson Neighborhood Park



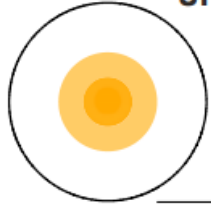
Regional Skatepark Grade

How well are regions meeting their skatepark needs?

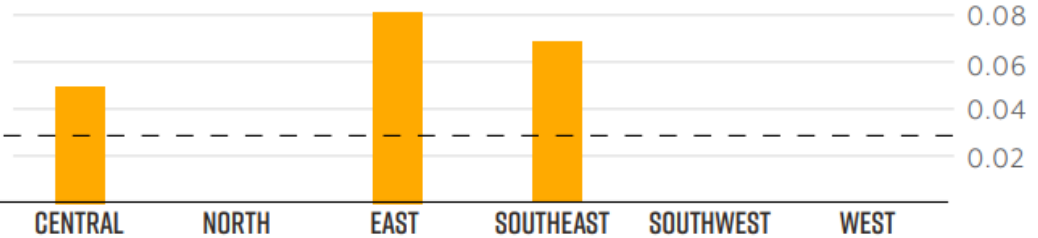


City of Austin PARD Long Range Plan 2020 - 2030

SKATE PARKS



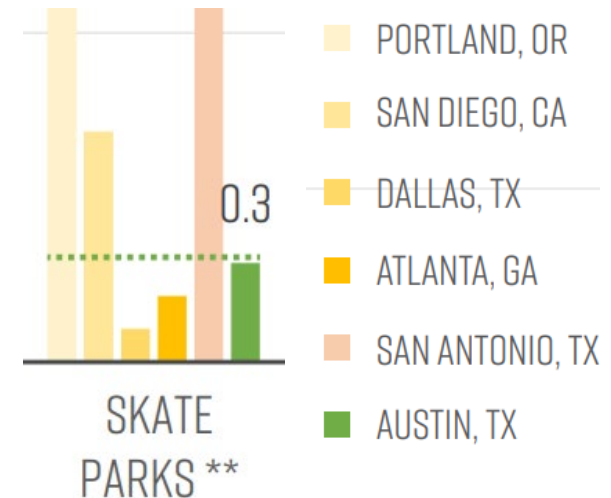
CITYWIDE AVERAGE **0.03** PER 10,000 RESIDENTS



Continually assess community needs and proactively plan for recreation programming that aligns to these needs and trends.

Ensure that PARD facilities are offering recreation programming and facilities that address community desires and needs, including emerging and non-traditional sports. Based on community input throughout the planning process, special attention should be given to golf, bocce ball, disc golf, bike polo, and skateparks.

** PER 100,000 RESIDENTS



Areas for Investment

Based on initial level of service guidelines, current and projected needs are expected through 2034 as follows:

Parkland & Indoor Facilities

✓	GREENBELTS
✓	NATURE PRESERVES
✓	TRAILS
✓	POCKET PARKS
✓	NEIGHBORHOOD / SCHOOL PARKS
✓	RECREATION / COMMUNITY CENTER

Outdoor Amenities

- + Baseball Diamond (Teen/Adult)
- + Softball Diamond (Youth/Adult)
- + Disc Golf Course (9 hole)
- + Playground
- + Off-Leash Dog Area
- + Tennis Court (Publicly Accessible)
- + Pickleball Court (Publicly Accessible)
- + Outdoor Basketball Court
- + Reservable Picnic Shelters
- + Skate Park / BMX Bike
- + Rectangle Fields (Mixed-use, including soccer)

City of Austin Long Range Plan 2010

The public input meetings findings varied from meeting to meeting, however the common themes were:

- Develop parks (that are undeveloped or under developed)
- Continue trail development
- More off-leash areas
- Skate parks
- Pools
- Neighborhood tennis courts

City-wide recommendations *cont.*

- **Playgrounds** – increase diversified play opportunities for toddlers, teens and special needs children
- **New Facility Distribution** – increase off-leash areas (OLAs) for dogs, skate parks, BMX parks and recreation complexes

E/SE Public Input Meeting – Top 5 Votes

- Off-leash dog area in Rosewood Park
- 5908 Manor Rd needs a free park with an activity center
- Country Club Creek Trail
- Skate parks throughout City
- More parks in SE area of Austin

American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons

How to Improve Safety of Skateboarding

Choose a Safe Environment

Children are most at risk for injury when they skateboard near traffic or in places where it is possible to collide with motor vehicles, bikes, pedestrians, or other obstacles.

To improve skateboarding safety, a growing number of communities provide supervised skateboard parks. These may have professionally designed “bowls” and “ramps” or other designated skateboarding areas that are located away from motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic...

In addition to choosing locations away from traffic, follow the recommendations below to ensure a safe environment for skateboarding.

- Avoid skateboarding on irregular surfaces.
- Do not use homemade skateboard ramps.
- Never use your skateboard in wet weather
- Avoid skateboarding in crowded walkways or in darkness.
- Never hold onto the side or rear of a moving vehicle while riding a skateboard (“skitching”).

Neighborhood Park Use by Children

American Journal of Prevention Medicine

[Genevieve Fridlund Dunton](#), PhD, MPH, [Estela Almanza](#), MPH, [Michael Jerrett](#), PhD,
[Jennifer Wolch](#), PhD, and [Mary Ann Pentz](#), PhD

Choose a Safe Environment

“Physical inactivity has been declared a global public health problem by the WHO. Estimates suggest that 65% of U.S. children aged 9-11 years do not get at least 20 minutes of daily vigorous physical activity, and this rate may be considerably lower when measured by accelerometer. The public health significance of the problem is underscored by evidence showing that physical inactivity increases risk of many serious health conditions. A growing body of research has linked children’s physical activity levels to neighborhood built environmental characteristics.”

There are not enough parks and park activities for children.

Source: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3979930/>

Pullias Center for Higher Education, USC

Study – Beyond the Board: Findings from the Field

By Zoë B. Corwin, Tattiya Maruco, Neftalie Williams, Robert Reichardt, Maria Romero-Morales, Christine Rocha, and Constanza Astiazaran

February 26, 2020

Key findings:

Skateboarding improves mental health – Majority of skaters indicated they skateboard for fun and/or to relieve stress.

Skateboarding and skateparks facilitate a sense of community among skaters – Reported the value of connecting with people who share similar passions in skateparks. Those encounters often facilitate intercultural communication and offer skaters the opportunity to interact with and gain an increased understanding of skaters of diverse racial, age and gender backgrounds.

Skateboarding encourages resilience – Skateboarding requires skaters to learn on their own and develop their own strategies to succeed. Skaters frequently perform a trick hundreds of times before experiencing reward for the efforts. Skaters reported that they apply these lessons of resilience to their lives outside of skateboarding.

Gender and race matter – The study also showed that skaters of color felt a greater degree of safety from judgment within the skateboarding community than in nonskate contexts. Female skaters indicated they believe they are judged by their gender both in and out of skateboarding contexts.

<https://pullias.usc.edu/download/beyond-the-board-findings-from-the-field/>

Watershed Protection MASTER PLAN



2.4.4 Common Goals

Many of the goals of the Watershed Protection Department are common to each of the three missions described above. These shared goals cover a range of initiatives that strive to make the best use of City resources and maintain compliance with applicable state and federal regulations. Three common (CG) goals encompass a variety of objectives as follows:

Goal: Improve the urban environment by fostering additional beneficial uses of waterways and drainage facilities. This goal is further defined by the following objectives:

CG1. Maximize the use of waterways and drainage facilities for public recreation.

CG2. Maximize areas for public use within floodplains.

CG3. Maintain natural and traditional character of floodplains to the maximum extent possible.

The City of Austin has a long history of promoting the public enjoyment of local waterways and constructed drainage facilities. Miles of greenbelts and hike and bike trails parallel Austin's creeks and lakes.

Working closely with the City's Parks and Recreation Department, soccer fields and park areas are commonly integrated into the design of many Austin stormwater management facilities (e.g., Northwest Park and Dick Nichols Park). The effort to promote the public use of City drainage facilities and floodplains (while promoting the natural and traditional character of local creeks) will continue as new solutions are implemented in the future.

2017/2018 POLICY AND OPERATIONS CHANGES - GREEN/RECREATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

"The City's stormwater conveyance system is composed of natural and engineered creeks and channels, a network of drainage pipelines, and structural stormwater management controls. Watershed Protection's Field Operations Division (FOD) is responsible for the maintenance of this system, which includes a variety of activities to ensure conveyance for stormwater runoff.

Staff removes excessive vegetation debris and obstructions, including trash and debris, from open channels and waterways, culvert and bridge locations.

Litter and debris also has the potential to clog and obstruct existing drainage infrastructure, creating stormwater conveyance issues."

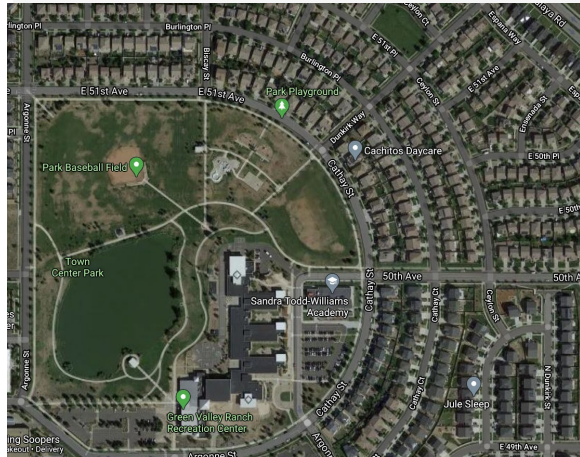


Surf Ditch

Austin, Texas

Town Center Park

Denver, Colorado



Rabalder Skate Park Roskilde, Denmark





WJ Skatepark + Urban Plaza Eugene, Oregon
The country's largest covered and lit public skatepark.

Underpass Skatepark Toronto, Ontario



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PUBLIC SPACE



City of Toronto

Underpass Skatepark

30-34 Saint Lawrence Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

ABOUT CITY OF TORONTO

The City of Toronto has well over 270 outdoor fields suitable for seasonal, occasional and tournament play for sports such as, but ... [Read more](#)

416-392-0239
PHONE

parks@toronto.ca
EMAIL

Visit Website

ABOUT UNDERPASS SKATEPARK

This quintessentially urban skatepark can be found underneath an expressway ramp (under the bridge south of King St. E., access off St. Lawrence St), offers shelter from harsher weather (rainy springs, summer sun, etc.). The terrain is smooth, and there are smaller versions of all the usual skate obstacles. The skatepark includes various pre-fabricated ledges and manual pads, rails and some small banks, set on a concrete pad. Lights turn on after dusk. Please note that since this space is used for activities that can result in injuries, please use protective gear when engaging in skating activities.

Space Type

Skateboard Park

Surface Type / Length

Concrete

Vancouver Skate Plaza Vancouver, British Columbia



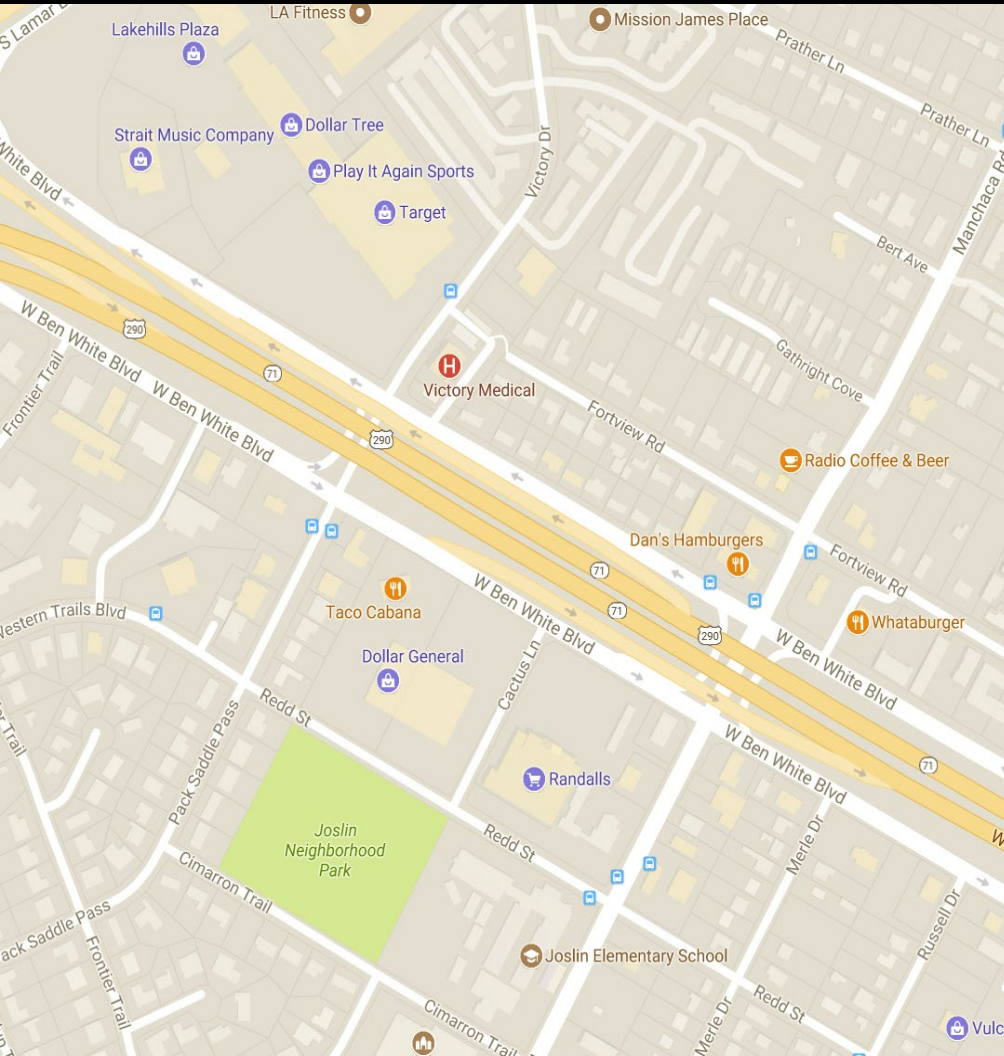
Ralambshovsparken Skatepark

Stockholm, Sweden



71/290

What about Austin?







Circa 1986

Questions?