



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Sara L. Hensley, CPRP, Director  
Austin Parks and Recreation Department

**DATE:** August 27, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Holly Shores/Edward Rendon Sr. Park Master Plan

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The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information requested by Council at the Council work session on August 26, 2014.

To date, PARD has completed three planned meetings (April 16, 2014, April 23, 2014 and May 7, 2014) where project staff met with East Town Lake Citizen Association (ETLCA) members to discuss specific master plan elements and suggestions for resolution. In addition, PARD staff and the consultant held a community meeting on July 14, 2014 that presented the following recommendations.

The following is a list of recommendations that have community consensus:

- **Holly Street Extension:** An extension of Holly Street that is designed to accommodate bicycles, pedestrians, and emergency and maintenance vehicles only. This recommendation is intended to maximize park safety and limit cut-through traffic in the park.
- **Proposed Internal Park Road from Pedernales/Riverview Street:** Redesigning the proposed connection from Pedernales Street to Riverview Street to only accommodate bicycles, pedestrians, and emergency and maintenance vehicles. PARD will reassess the need for increased vehicle connectivity on this section of roadway once a reuse plan for the existing metal structures has been determined and sufficient funds for road and facility improvements have been acquired.
- **Internal Park Road in Ball Fields area:** The reconfiguration of a roadway that terminates into a parking lot without intersecting ball fields. This recommendation is intended to maximize park safety and address potential vehicle-pedestrian accidents involving children and families who utilize the ball fields.
- **Proposed Improvements to Fiesta Gardens Lagoon:** Redesigning the plan to depict the creation of sloped lawns, scenic views, shoreline/riparian enhancements and passive recreation such as fishing, canoeing and kayaking. Active recreation such as swimming will not be allowed due to concerns over public safety.
- **Proposed Community Use of Fiesta Gardens West:** Re-labeling the existing maintenance and operation buildings as "Community Use" rather than "Concessions" so that future uses could include youth and senior programming.

- **Proposed Relocation of Degollado Pavilion:** Leave the pavilion in its current location and reorienting the stage to reduce the impact of amplified sound on the abutting neighborhood during music events. PARD further supports the City Council's consideration of a policy that would limit the size and number of special events hosted at this site.

The following is a list of recommendations that do not have community consensus:

- **Bike/Pedestrian Bridges:** While ETLCA is in support of an improved bicycle and pedestrian connectivity of the I-35 and Pleasant Valley connections, they are not in support of the proposed central bridge for a variety of reasons. Therefore, ETLCA request it be removed from the master plan. The central bridge was proposed to create connectivity between IH-35 and Pleasant Valley Road and if implemented will align with Imagine Austin priorities. While Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc (MVVA) agreed that the central bridge concept as currently proposed could be removed, their recommendation is to depict this bridge as a provisional option using a dashed line and noting it in the master plan as such. This concept could be implemented after the other two bicycle/pedestrian bridges (at IH-35 and Pleasant Valley Road) have been funded and constructed.

✓PARD Staff supports revising the plan to depict the bridge as an option and recommends environmental studies be conducted along with securing approvals from the Army Corp of Engineers prior to any consideration of a third bridge.

- **Food Forest (Sustainable Community Agriculture):** The master plan included the recommendation of a food forest concept to be located adjacent to the existing Festival Beach Community Garden. The "food forest" is not supported by the ETLCA for a variety of public health and maintenance reasons.

✓PARD Staff recommends the concept of a Food Forest remain in the plan and will carefully evaluate design proposals in order to mitigate community and staff concerns about maintenance, operation and use.

#### Next Steps:

Staff and MVVA are scheduled to present the Holly Shores/Edward Rendon Sr. Festival Beach Master Plan on August 28, 2014 for Council consideration. You may view a copy of the Draft Master Plan at the following link: <http://www.austintexas.gov/hollyshoresmasterplan>

Should you have any additional questions or require more information, please contact Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager at (512) 974-9452.

cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager  
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