

AUSTIN PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT
FY 2019



WE CREATE COMMUNITY



TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Note from Our Leadership	3
Who We Are	4
What We Do	6
Human Resources	7
Financial Services	7
Financial Statement	8
Asset Management	9
Community Engagement	10
Planning our Parks	12
Historic Preservation and Tourism	20
Developing Our Parks	22
Homelessness	29
Caring for Our Parks	30
Museums and Cultural Centers	32
Events in our Parks	36
Keep Austin Swimming	38
Golf	42
Athletics and Programs	44
Recreation Centers	48
Natural Resources	50
Historic Cemeteries	54

A NOTE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



Kimberly McNeeley, CPRP

Director

Austin Parks and Recreation Department

I am incredibly honored to be a part of the important work of the Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARC). Our talented team is bringing to life the places and spaces where our community feels welcomed and inspired and where residents and visitors can gather, learn, grow, and be their best selves. **We are creating community.**

For locals and visitors alike, PARC supports a sustainable environment, healthy lives, and learning opportunities. Well maintained trails and parks create spaces where we lace up our sneakers and connect with nature. At recreation centers, pools, and sports complexes, community members connect with each other and engage in fun activities that strengthen their bodies and minds. Life-long learners are enriched by Austin's unique culture at our museums, cultural centers, and historical places.

Any day of the week, you can join in the diversity and creativity of our parks and recreation community. I invite you to enjoy it!



Dawn Lewis

Chair

Austin Parks and Recreation Board

It is an honor to be part of a team who works to build, maintain, and preserve Austin's parks and recreation system. This system is integral to our city, playing an important role in building health, sustainability, and social equity by providing all Austinites with opportunities to improve their quality of life through access to local parks, recreation and cultural facilities, programming, and open spaces.

As Austin continues to grow and change, and as we deal with the impacts of climate change, it remains an important goal to continue to enhance and bolster this system. I am grateful for our community partners, the PARC staff, and all of our citizens who are dedicated to this mission so we can make our parks and recreation system and our city a better place to live, work, visit, and play.

WHO WE ARE



PARD has been the trusted steward of the City of Austin's public lands since 1928. As such, we protect and maintain parkland and our urban forest. We preserve historic resources, maintain trails, and offer a variety of sports, recreation, educational enrichment, arts programs, cultural opportunities, nature, and aquatic activities.

719.25

BUDGETED FULL-TIME STAFF

1,181

TEMPORARY AND PART-TIME STAFF

113

UNITS AND DIVISIONS



MISSION

Inspire Austin to learn, play, protect and connect by creating diverse programs and experiences in sustainable natural spaces and public places.

Executive Leadership

Austin Parks and Recreation Department

Kimberly A. McNeeley, CPRP, Director

Liana Kallivoka, PhD, PE, Assistant Director

Anthony Segura, MPA, MS, Assistant Director

Suzanne Piper, DBA, Chief Administrative Officer

Lucas Massie, M.Ed., CPRP, Acting Assistant Director

Board Leadership

Parks and Recreation Board

Dawn Lewis, Chair

Romteen Farasat, Vice Chair

Laura Cottam Sajbel, Board Member

Richard DePalma, Board Member

Anna L. Di Carlo, Board Member

Tom Donovan, Board Member

Francoise Luca, Board Member

Kate Mason-Murphy, Board Member

Fred Morgan, Board Member

Nina Rinaldi, Board Member

Kimberly Taylor, Board Member



Parks	291
Miles of Trail	230
Pools	34
Splash Pads	11
Community Gardens	18
Playgrounds	148
Picnic Shelters	77
Off-leash Areas	13
Performing Arts Venues	8
Museums and Cultural Centers	12
Recreation and Senior Centers	23
Tennis Courts	106
Multipurpose Courts	26
Basketball Courts	73
Baseball Fields	35
Softball Fields	35
GaGa Ball Courts	10
Bocce Ball Courts	2
Volleyball Courts	50
Mixed-Use Fields	74
Golf Courses	6
Soccer Fields	23
Historic Buildings	81
Historic Cemeteries	7

WHAT WE DO

19,529 RECREATION ACRES

SUPPORT SERVICES

Human Resources

Fostering Growth and Opportunity

The Management Services Unit helps job applicants become employees and provides PARD employees with opportunities for growth and advancement.

Safety

PARD Safety Team proves that small units can accomplish great things. In FY19, the Safety Team inspected 415 sites, which included parks, recreation centers, trails, pools, and senior centers. The Safety Team also taught 105 classes including Active Shooter, CPR/First Aid, Hazardous Material Communication, and Safe Driving. In total, they trained 1,242 PARD employees, making the workplace safer for PARD staff and the community.

Information Systems Management

The Information Systems Management Team continues to improve service to the public through RecTrac, PARD's customer registration and reservation system. PARD delivered service through multiple mechanisms, both online across 10 system modules and in person at 47 unique park locations.

Financial Services

Contracts, Procurements and Grants

PARD fostered partnerships with 49 nonprofit groups and more than 70 individual recreation professionals to provide services to Austin at no cost to the department. The department was also successful in obtaining three grants with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and one grant with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Accounting

In FY19, PARD's Accounting Team consistently processed all accounts payable (AP) invoices within the state mandated AP 30-day turnaround requirement. For the most recent quarter, PARD invoices were paid on average within 14 days, well below the 30-day requirement.



Recruited at 5+ Job Fairs **62** PARD Staff Promotions

Attended *WerQ It Out!*,
Austin Pride's
Inaugural Hiring Fair **70** New Full-time Hires

geared towards the
LGBTQIA+ community **7** Military / Veterans Hired

1,181 Temporary Hires

RecTrac

PARD's customer registration and reservation system

15,157 New Customer
Households Created

1,746 Programs Managed

\$1,239,221 New Grant
Funding Total

49 Nonprofit Partnerships
Fostered

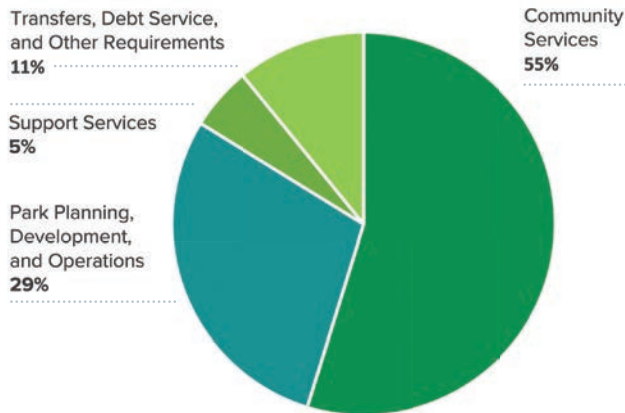
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FY2019

Funding by Program

Community Services	\$54,787,423
Park Planning, Development, and Operations	\$29,027,092
Support Services	\$5,333,194
Transfers, Debt Service, and Other Requirements	\$10,865,626
Total Budget by Program	\$100,013,335

Funding by Program



Revenue by Source

Charges for Services/Goods	\$19,370,032
Licenses, Permits, and Inspections	\$15,980
Other Revenue	\$302,103
Transfers In	\$1,000,000
Use of Money and Property	\$1,768,093
Total Projected Revenue	\$22,456,208

Capital Projects by Category

Aquatics	\$5,882,948
Athletics	\$14,026
Buildings and Improvements	\$6,656,871
Cemeteries	\$540,971
Golf	\$391,369
Land Acquisition	\$470,925
Parks	\$14,777,064
Plans and Studies	\$795,104
Playscapes	\$3,600,455
Trails	\$859,901
Total Projects by Category	\$33,989,634

Grants

Capital Improvement Projects	\$1,000,000
General Fund	\$239,221
Total Grants	\$1,239,221

Personnel

Personnel Full-Time Equivalents	716.25
Grant Full-Time Equivalents	3.00
Total FTEs	719.25

ASSET MANAGEMENT

2018 General Obligation Bond Program

Voters approved Propositions B and C of the 2018 General Obligation Bond Program in November 2018, which authorized \$215.5M toward PARD facilities and parkland. Council approved the first \$28.2M in appropriations for PARD projects in a Budget Amendment on March 7, 2019. With the appropriation, PARD was able to start work on new projects, including Phase II of the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, developing a new pool at Colony Park District Park, and renovating Givens District Park pool and Pharr Tennis Center. This initial 2018 Bond funding also contributed to construction at Walsh Boat Landing.

Capital Improvement Program

PARD's Capital Improvement Program reached \$33.5M in capital spending. This was more than double the amount of each of the last three years and, excluding parkland acquisition, is the highest amount for any single fiscal year.

Major FY19 projects under construction:

- Waterloo Park
- Montopolis Recreation and Community Center
- Govalle Pool
- Shipe Pool
- Alliance Children's Garden
- Colony Park District Park
- Dove Springs Recreation Center

Preserving Assets and Facilities

The Asset Management Division continued its implementation of Maximo, the department's new asset management, service request, and work order management system. Efforts this year focused on collecting and verifying baseline data for assets installed in the park system and synchronizing the city's GIS servers with Maximo. The team completed asset inventories and condition assessments of 127 park sites, including all developed neighborhood, pocket, and school parks. This information also supported a park score card pilot program, an outcome of PARD's Our Parks, Our Future Long Range Plan.



Givens District Park Master Plan

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PARD's Communications and Engagement Unit (CEU) supports an Austin community that is connected to its parks, recreation and cultural facilities and parks through community engagement. In FY19, the team collaborated across the department to involve residents in making decisions about Austin's parks and recreation system.



City of Austin Public Participation Principles:

- Accessibility and Inclusion
- Accountability
- Collaboration
- Consistency
- Respect and Stewardship

The City of Austin is a member of the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2), and PARD honors the organization's Core Values, developing engagement plans around the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation.

PARD was recognized for improvements in engaging the community by IAP2 USA.

CEU identified key projects where past inequities have occurred or where other barriers have existed, including the Givens District Park Master Plan. The park is a centerpiece of the historically African American community, which like much of East Austin faces significant gentrification and displacement.

Online Engagement through



SPEAKUP *Austin!*

8 City-wide projects

18k Total website visits for PARD projects

4,921 Responses collected for 21 surveys

96 Contributions on forums across eight projects

98 Contributions on 14 ideas

Seeking Equity in Engagement

In FY19, CEU improved community engagement processes and devoted more resources to facilitate conversations throughout Austin. An Equity Assessment from the City of Austin Equity Office illuminated opportunities for deeper engagement. Recognizing that operationalizing equity is an ongoing process, CEU collected detailed demographic information in surveys to assess engagement with underrepresented voices.

Additionally, PARD began training partners in engagement principles, including:

- The Trail Foundation
- Austin Parks Foundation
- Sustainable Food Center
- Pease Park Conservancy

PARD encouraged its staff members to pursue equity training:

31 Staff members attended the Equity for All Forum

17 Staff members at the follow-up Equity in PARD Meeting

13 Staff members at the Undoing Racism Workshop



OUR PARKS OUR FUTURE

2018 - 2028



AUSTIN PARKS & RECREATION LONG RANGE PLAN

Language Access Improvements

CEU provided deeper and more timely support for people with limited English proficiency to engage in services and projects.

Asian American Resource Center (AARC)

Interpreters are provided twice weekly at the AARC.

During the AARC Master Plan Update

Interpretation and/or translation was available in the following languages: Korean, Burmese, Nepalese, Traditional and Simplified Chinese, Mandarin, Vietnamese, and Arabic.

Gus Garcia Community Garden Interpretation

Community members who speak English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Burmese are a part of the community garden. Since adding a Burmese interpreter, Burmese-speaking gardeners have been participating more and have a better understanding of the guidelines.



Long Range Plan Community Survey Responses

4,506

Total responses to Long Range Plan survey

8,868

Total comments received on Long Range Plan

7

Responses were collected in 7 languages including English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Burmese, Korean, and Arabic

Long Range Plan: PARD offered Spanish, Mandarin, and Vietnamese interpretation at select community meetings and pop-ups throughout the planning process.--



PLANNING OUR PARKS



Parkland Acquisition and Dedication

Austin is growing and so is its park system, thanks in large part to Parkland Dedication (PLD) funding. PARD is committed to making the Austin park system even better by planning and dedicating new parks, building connections to existing parks, and working towards an interconnected network of parks.

1,743

new acres acquired

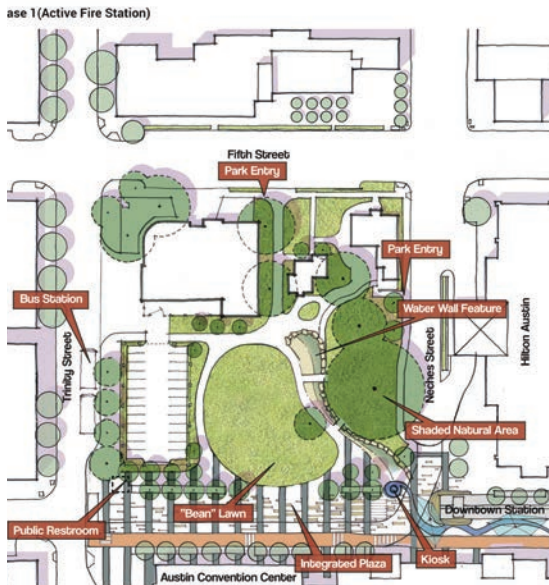
Acquired 1,743 acres of new parkland and 33 acres of easements throughout the city in FY19.

\$13.465M

PLD fees collected

Collected \$13.465M in PLD fees between Oct. 1, 2018 to Sept. 30, 2019, a 93% increase over FY18

Completed Master Plans



Brush Square Master Plan

The Brush Square Master Plan was adopted by the Austin City Council on March 28, 2019. The plan protects existing heritage trees and accentuates the green space by adding an array of native plants. It also integrates the courtyards of the O. Henry and Susanna Dickinson Museums and provides lighting and security. Residents, workers, transit users, and museum visitors will be able to enjoy to additional shaded gathering spaces. Once completed, the square will comfortably support larger events such as the O. Henry Museum Pun-Off, which attracts thousands of visitors every year to Austin's Brush Square.

The planning process took 12 months and engaged a wide range of participants, including downtown residents, workers, tourists, and commuters, as well as partners such as Brush Square Museums, Austin Fire Department, Downtown Austin Alliance, Preservation Austin, the Austin Convention Center, Capital Metro, and the Waterloo Greenway Conservancy.

The Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association awarded PARD a 2019 Silver Award for the Brush Square Master Plan. The plan was also a finalist in the Urban Land Institute - Austin 2019 Impact Awards.

Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park

The 3,695-acre park is Austin's largest park. The existing facilities include hike and bike trails, picnic areas, volleyball courts, boat ramps, and fishing piers. A skeet shooting range and model airplane area are also operated by organizations within the park. The Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park Master Plan will help determine the long-range vision for the entire park, including areas currently used by other organizations.



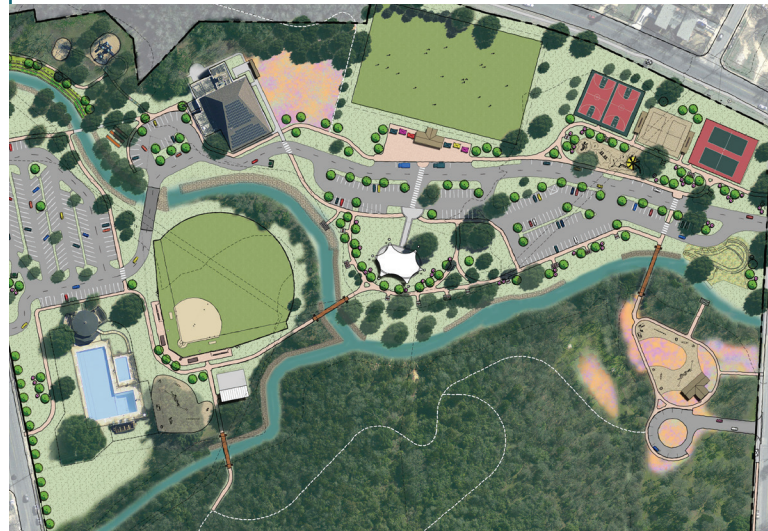
Asian American Resource Center

The Austin City Council adopted the Asian American Resource Center Master Plan on September 19, 2019. The master plan envisions a new performing arts center, an outdoor stage/pavilion, upgrades to the existing facility, a pedestrian bridge, picnic areas, an exercise equipment area, additional classrooms, and community-focused outdoor areas. The new performing arts center will be next to the existing facility, creating an outdoor courtyard capable of hosting large festivals and community events.



Givens District Park

The 40-acre district park underwent a park master planning process that will enhance the existing park amenities, which include two large, covered pavilions, restrooms, playscape, basketball courts, tennis courts, picnic tables, and two play fields. The Givens District Park Master Plan was approved in January 2019.



CONNECTING CHILDREN TO NATURE

Green School Parks

Current Projects

Barrington Elementary School

With a grant from the Austin Parks Foundation, PARD completed Phase II of the park, including a secondary nature trail, nature play space, and park amenities.

Wooldridge Elementary School

During the summer of 2019, PARD installed split rail fencing around the wildflower meadow and riparian area, an outdoor classroom, nature trails, trees, and a rain garden, and improved access to the riparian area.

Sanchez Elementary School

PARD developed community engagement strategies during summer of 2019.

Outdoor Learning Environment

OLE! Texas is a state-wide initiative from the Department of State Health Services. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center leads local Austin efforts. The goal is to improve outdoor spaces at childcare centers to enable 0-5 year-olds to be active, learn in nature, and develop motor skills.

PARD developed a partnership with Austin Public Health to ensure new city childcare centers meet OLE! Texas standards. The Dougherty Arts Center will design and install OLE! Texas-based features.

Future Projects

To help achieve the goal of seeking large scale funding in 2020, PARD defined Green School Yard and Green School Park and assessed green features at all joint use park sites.

Research

PARD collected data and analyzed the effect of green infrastructure on nature connection and health. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation granted \$341,000 to explore the affect of green infrastructure on health and climate. The department is completing the study at Barrington Green School Park in partnership with UTHealth.

Nature Play Committee

PARD created this new committee with participation from city staff and nonprofit partners. The goal of this committee is to install nature-based play elements to activate city parks, natural areas, and recreation centers.

Accomplishments:

- Received a \$10,000 grant for staff training
- Made Loose Parts Lending Kits available
- Assessed recreation centers' nature status
- Added nature play features to Reilly Button Park

Youth Leadership Committee

This new committee is led by the Children in Nature Collaborative of Austin/Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center and includes city staff and nonprofit partners. The goals are to elevate the youth voice in nature-based professions through training, networking, and mentoring.

Accomplishments:

- Defined youth
- Incorporated youth into committee meetings
- Included youth in local training and speaker panels
- Built PARD Cadet relationships with nonprofit partners
- Created new youth positions in the city and partner organizations





Park Improvement Projects

Onion Creek Buyout Area

Between 1999 and 2018, Austin's Watershed Protection Department purchased flood-prone homes in the southeast Austin, Yarrabee Bend Neighborhood, adjacent to Onion Creek in southeast Austin. As part of a partnership between the City of Austin and the Army Corps of Engineers, this former neighborhood was converted to a recreation area. The amenities include pavilions, picnic tables, a restroom, nature trails, and a low water crossing across Onion Creek. This 99-acre property was dedicated as parkland by City Council on April 11, 2019 and added to Onion Creek Metropolitan Park.



Mustang Button Park

Mustang Button Park is the first button park within Austin's parks and recreation system. This 1/8 acre park was carved from Reilly Elementary School Park to provide a multi-generational play area that is open to the public during regular park hours. The park has a shaded playground with Reilly Mustang themed climbing features, game tables, a ping-pong table, benches, and a nature play area.



Hartford Triangle Park

Hartford Triangle was a half-acre turf island between roads in the Pemberton Heights Neighborhood. Neighbors formed the Friends of Hartford Park and raised funds to construct a small park, which the neighborhood was lacking. Private funds paid for approximately 80% of the park construction, which included two playscapes, a swing set, picnic tables, and a fence.



American YouthWorks Projects

In 2019, PARD executed a contract with the Texas Conservation Corps to complete projects in preserves, greenbelts, and neighborhood parks. Their work has provided new - and improved - existing recreation opportunities in areas that were mostly inaccessible to the public. In addition, the organization is helping to restore the ecology of Austin's parks by removing and controlling invasive plant species.

COMMUNITY PARKNERSHIPS

The Community PARKnerships program coordinates the efforts of community members and partner organizations. By leveraging outside resources and talent, these connections enhance Austin's parks and help grow a sense of community and stewardship. Through the PARKnerships program, community members and business partners can adopt their park, participate in volunteer days, propose enhancements at their local park, and donate resources. By working together, we create community!



BY WORKING TOGETHER, WE CREATE COMMUNITY

Community Activated Park Projects

The Community Activated Park Projects (CAPP) program streamlines the proposal process for our nonprofit partners and community members that want to initiate improvements on parkland.

In FY19, partners, neighborhood groups, and park stakeholders submitted 138 CAPP proposals.

Notable projects include:

Patterson Neighborhood Park
Nature Play Features and Playground Expansion

Wooldridge Square
Installed Interpretive Signage

Copperfield Greenbelt
Foot Bridge and Trail Enhancements

BEFORE



AFTER



Volunteerism

In FY19 PARD leveraged thousands of volunteers to assist in the maintenance and operations of our parks and recreation system.

934
Total Number
of Volunteer Projects
on Parkland

154,793
Volunteer Hours

29,109
Park Volunteers

PARKNERSHIPS

Adopt-A-Park-Program

The Adopt-A-Park (AAP) Program helps citizens become stewards through a collaborative partnership between PARD and Austin Parks Foundation (APF). The goal of this program is to build community pride and ownership around every neighborhood park in Austin.

+ 7%

13 New Park Adopters

123

Total Adopt-A-Park groups

Highlights from FY2019:

Launched Nature Play Loose Parts Lending Kits

The goal of the kits is to provide free pop-up activation opportunities for adopters and stakeholder groups. Loose parts promote creativity, imagination, cooperation and communication, and foster connection to nature and stewardship values.

Adopt-A-Park Summit

In partnership with APF, PARD hosted the AAP Summit where 80 Adopters attended a full day of workshops and networking opportunities.

Adopt-A-Park Newsletter

PARD developed regular communication with the AAP groups through the AAP seasonal newsletter.

PARD PARTNERS

PARD is committed to partnerships that align with the department's mission, vision and values, and provide benefit to the parks and recreation system. PARD actively seeks partnerships with nonprofit organizations, conservancies, and businesses for park development, maintenance, management, and programming.

Pease Park Conservancy \$13M Redevelopment of Kingsbury Commons



Waterloo Greenway Conservancy Redevelopment of Waterloo Park and Waterloo Greenway \$38.15M

Construction continued through 2019 on Waterloo Park, which will be the first section of the Waterloo Greenway to open to the public in late 2020. Waterloo Greenway is an ambitious public-private partnership that will result in over \$200M invested in a revitalized 35-acre, 1.5-mile network of parks and trails through the east side of downtown Austin along Waller Creek, a highly degraded urban stream. In 2018, the Watershed Protection Department installed a flood control tunnel, which makes ecological restoration of the creek possible, including bank stabilization and riparian reconstruction. The goals of the Greenway are not only to conserve and protect our natural resources, but also to connect people to nature by creating opportunities for recreation and bicycle and pedestrian connectivity and furthering economic development within the district.

When complete, Waterloo Park will include Moody Amphitheater, a 5,000-person performance venue, family pavilion including restrooms, food truck area, traditional and nature-based children's play elements, open lawn, two new pedestrian bridges, accessible trails, and a restored stretch of Waller Creek.



Austin Parks Foundation

\$500k

Playground enhancements at Pan American Neighborhood Park

The Trail Foundation

Continued support for tree and ecological restoration at the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND HERITAGE TOURISM

The mission of PARD's Historic Preservation and Heritage Tourism (HPHT) is to lead the restoration, stewardship, interpretation, and promotion of the irreplaceable historic and cultural resources of Austin's park system, allowing visitors and residents to discover and experience an authentic connection to the city's diverse history.

In FY19, City Council allocated \$7.8M in hotel occupancy tax revenue to PARD for historic preservation. The projects that will receive benefit from this funding in FY19 are the Barton Springs Bathhouse, Zilker Café, Downs Mabson Field grandstands, Norwood House, Zilker Clubhouse, and Brush Square.

The funding also included three full-time employee positions within Park Planning and Development to support the new HPHT program. The positions include a program coordinator, project coordinator, and marketing representative. After a thorough assessment of the current state of PARD's historic preservation, the newly assembled team devised a strategy which will drive their work in the future. The strategy aligns with Austin Strategic Direction 2023, Imagine Austin, and PARD goals.



Marketing and Advertising of Historic Properties

HPHT is a multidisciplinary team formed in early 2019 that protects, rehabilitates, interprets, and promotes PARD's historic sites. With the renovations of multiple properties complete, HPHT began marketing historic sites to tourists. Early advertising efforts focused on "drive" markets, people within Texas who would be likely to make a multi-day trip to Austin. The program bought digital and print advertising in Texas Monthly, Texas Highways, AAA Magazine, Southwest: The Magazine, The Texas Tribune and Visit Austin.

Ongoing marketing efforts include creating a new advertising campaign that features a unified look for all of PARD's historic sites, increased interpretive signage, social media campaigns, and tourist friendly web pages that feature more photos and easy to find hours and locations.



Zilker Caretaker's Cottage Restoration
Winner of Preservation Texas 2018 Honor Award



Oakwood Cemetery Chapel
Winner of Preservation Texas 2018 Honor Award

Oakwood Cemetery and Oakwood Cemetery Annex

The restoration of Oakwood Chapel and revitalization of Oakwood Cemetery and Oakwood Cemetery Annex are a testament to the passion and vision of many volunteers, local experts, and staff who supported the effort to preserve this significant, historic, and sacred site.

Fence and Gate Restoration

Part of the award-winning 2015 Cemeteries Master Plan for Oakwood Cemetery and Oakwood Cemetery Annex was transforming these cemeteries into revered historic sites. Following Oakwood Chapel's restoration in September 2018, PARD began working to elevate the importance and history of the cemeteries by restoring the gates and replacing the deteriorated fencing.

PARD dismantled, catalogued, and restacked the stone entrance and restored the iron gates at Oakwood Cemetery and Oakwood Cemetery Annex. The iron gates were straightened, reassembled, cleaned, repaired, and painted. To convey the significance of these historic cemeteries, PARD replaced the chain link fence with black, spear-point picket fencing.

Oakwood Cemetery Chapel Opens

Through historical tours, exhibits, events, and memorial services, the Oakwood Cemetery Chapel provides a place to connect, heal, and reflect, that is open to all.

Staff hosted community engagement meetings with the public between March and May of 2019 to get input about mission, vision, and history statements and appropriate uses of Oakwood Chapel. Staff members began working with stakeholders to develop programming and the chapel opened to the public on May 15, 2019. In September 2019, the fall exhibition, "To Believe," launched with a geo-located history project about the Reverend Jacob Fontaine and his wife Viney, buried in unmarked graves at Oakwood Cemetery.

Rosewood Neighborhood Park

Winner of Texas Recreation and Park Society Lone Star Legacy Park Award 2019
Awarded Texas Historical Commission Undertold Marker 2019

Segregated History

In the early 1900s, African American settlements were spread throughout Austin. The 1928 City of Austin Plan segregated the population to the East side of the city by only offering utilities and services there. This was like many Southern cities during the Jim Crow era of "separate but equal." In 1929, Rosewood Park opened as the original segregated park for African Americans and, today, is a physical reminder of the significance of this public space in the cultural history of Austin.

Enduring Cultural Center

Since the opening of Rosewood Park, it has served as the heart and cultural center for the Rosewood Community. Juneteenth, the annual celebration commemorating emancipation, has been held at the park since 1932. The observance of culturally significant events for Austin's African American community has remained a tradition.

Indispensable for Austinites

The primary focus of programming at the Delores Duffie Recreation Center is youth activities. The center has a robust afterschool program and offers several types of camp programs in the summer, serving hundreds of area youth. Doris Miller Auditorium provides programs for teenagers and adults, and overall, Rosewood Neighborhood Park continues to play an indispensable role in the lives of Austin's families, youth, and seniors.



DEVELOPING OUR PARKS



UPCOMING...

Kingsbury Commons

Kingsbury Commons is the first phase of the Pease District Park Master Plan, which was adopted by City Council in 2014. The project is located on parkland dedicated to the City of Austin by Governor Pease in 1875.

Pease Park Conservancy (PPC), in partnership with PARD, is managing the project. In the Southern 13 acres of Pease District Park, the partners will renovate the Historic Tudor Cottage, restore the ecology of the site, install a lawn, wayfinding, and signs, and build an event terrace, restrooms, a playground, a nature play area, an interactive water feature, a tree house, and sport courts.

In line with PARD's mission and values, Kingsbury Commons will be among the first PARD projects to pursue SITES certification, which demonstrates the team's commitment to sustainable design and development goals and will serve as a benchmark for park projects city-wide.

Multiple shareholders and community groups have contributed to the project. Through a grant from the Moody Foundation and the support of other donors, PPC is providing the funding for this project. PPC anticipates completing the work in the summer of 2021.

Zilker Clubhouse

Workers from the Civil Works Administration built the rustic-style Zilker Clubhouse in 1934, which originally served as a Boy Scouts of America hut. Today, the clubhouse serves as one of PARD's most popular rental venues and offers a panoramic view of the Austin skyline.

The clubhouse is a contributing building to the Zilker Park Historic District, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997. In October 2019, with financial support from the Historic Preservation Fund, PARD began designing the improvements, which will focus on preserving and restoring the architectural features while providing the flexibility to host groups, special events, and visitors. The project team will restore the doorways and windows, reconnect the main hall to the back-of-house space, replace the roof, repoint the masonry, improve the electrical system, and replace the HVAC system. There will also be upgrades to wayfinding, interpretive signage, and exterior lighting, including a new bollard-lit pedestrian path through the parking lot.



Seaholm Waterfront

Austin Parks Foundation (APF), The Trail Foundation, and PARD completed the planning study for the future of the Seaholm Waterfront, the historic Seaholm Intake structure, and the surrounding parkland. The study reveals a concept for improving the park and repurposing the decommissioned Seaholm Intake structures for public use and recreation.

Work on early phases will begin in 2020 and additional phases and amenities will be developed in later years. The preferred design concept for the adaptive reuse of the building features an open and flexible space that could be used by the public or for events and large gatherings. The proposed plan adds support structures, flexible lawn space, multiple water access points, trail improvements, and an amphitheater.

Several important principles guided the planning process and design of the Seaholm Waterfront. These principles include embracing and preserving the historic integrity of the building, engaging with the local community and experts, restoring and diversifying the ecology in the area, and incorporating sustainable design and operations.

PARD is currently implementing Phase I improvements by updating the building and grounds for code compliant occupancy. This will provide a safe and inhabitable facility for small programs and events. The scope of work includes accessibility and ADA improvements, upgrades to building systems, historic preservation, and architectural restoration.



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Zilker Café

Zilker Café, the concession building in Zilker Metropolitan Park, was built in 1959 and is a contributing structure to the Zilker National Register Historic District. The café serves as an important amenity for nearly a million visitors to Barton Springs Pool each year. With funding from the Historic Preservation Fund and the 2012 GO Bond, PARD is restoring the building's original mid-century modern character and adapting it to accommodate current mechanical systems and accessibility standards. Preparations for construction have started and completion is anticipated by fall of 2020. The Zilker Café will once again serve as a source of sustenance for visitors to the pool and park.

Govalle Pool Improvements

With funding from a one-time City Council appropriation and the 2012 and 2006 GO Bonds, Govalle Neighborhood Park has been transformed into a new aquatic destination. The new pool facility builds on the neighborhood pool model described in the Aquatic Master Plan by providing an architecturally unique bathhouse, articulated shade structures, an expansive deck space, a lap-recreation pool, and a zero-entry activity pool. In addition, the project will also provide restroom facilities for general park users when the pool is not in service. The original Govalle Pool was one of the smallest pools in the system and this renovation provides an aquatic facility that serves the diverse, growing community. PARD anticipates completing the pool in early FY20.

Dove Springs Recreation Center

The community identified priorities for the Dove Springs Recreation Center expansion and renovation, including the need for additional space for programming activities and better integration of the center into the surrounding park landscape. Construction for the addition and renovation of the center began in August 2018 and is anticipated to be complete in FY20.

The scope of the project includes a new dance and fitness studio, a large covered porch, a commercial grade kitchen, a mobile study area for visitors, new gymnasium flooring, reconfigured staff spaces and control desk, and building systems and accessibility improvements to meet current code requirements. The 2012 GO Bond and a \$500,000 Urban Indoor Local Parks Grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department provided funding for the project. PARD is pursuing LEED certification.



NEW FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

Colony Park District Park

Located in Northeast Austin on Loyola Lane, the 93-acre Colony Park District Park is home to Overton Elementary School and the Turner Roberts Recreation Center. The Colony Park District Park improvements project developed approximately nine acres of parkland to provide the following amenities: a youth baseball and multi-sport field, age-appropriate play areas, fitness equipment, two pavilions, picnic tables, drinking fountains, parking, landscaping, and irrigation. The project also included a large mural provided by the city's Art in Public Places program. Additionally, a pedestrian bridge and a portion of the hike and bike trail network will connect the adjacent communities to the park facilities and elementary school. Park Development and Facilities Construction Teams managed and implemented this project with funding from APF, and St. David's Foundation, a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department grant, and the 2012 and 2018 GO Bonds. This premiere park space will be completed in early 2020 and provide passive and active recreation options for all ages and abilities.

Accessible Walkways at Festival Beach and Martin Neighborhood Pool

Facilities Construction Team completed new sidewalk connections near the Rebekah Baines Johnson Center and areas surrounding the pool and playground. Improvements include trash receptacles and accessible picnic tables, connection to ADA parking, and ramps at Nash Hernandez Road to link with the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail. Surrounding Martin Park and Pool, new sidewalks connect nearby culs-de-sac to the playground, accessible picnic tables, grills, and pavilions.



RECENTLY COMPLETED

Shipe Neighborhood Pool

The new Shipe Neighborhood Park Pool facility is in the Hyde Park Neighborhood in Central Austin. In October 2018, PARD began construction of the new facility to replace the original pool. With financial support from a one-time City Council appropriation and the 2018 GO Bond, Shipe Pool includes restrooms and family rooms, a lap-recreation pool, and a zero-entry activity pool. The design includes a deck space that overlooks the historic Elizabet Ney Museum and protects the existing Shipe Park Mural, providing a familiar back drop.

St. John Pocket Park

St. John Pocket Park was dedicated in 1964. It came more than 30 years after Rosewood and Parque Zaragoza Neighborhood Parks. The park served as a community hub for the St. John and Coronado Hills neighborhoods for decades. The old “draw and fill” swimming pool, which was the main feature of the park, became too expensive to maintain and upgrade in compliance with environmental regulations and was closed in 2010. The St. John Neighborhood Association’s efforts to revitalize the park resulted in a new park design with funding from Austin Parks Foundation (APF), St. David’s Foundation, and the 2012 GO Bond. New park amenities include a youth playscape and swing set, a picnic pavilion, loop trail, kiosk, and water fountain.

Pan American Neighborhood Park: Playground and Garden Renovation

APF, Austin City Limits Music Festival, Health’s Angels, a program of St. David’s Foundation Community Fund, and the 2012 GO Bond funded the playground renovation and improvements to the senior garden at Pan American Neighborhood Park. PARD’s Playground Condition Assessments identified the playground as a candidate for replacement. APF collaborated with PARD and the community to develop the new play space. The Pan American Neighborhood Park renovation was APF’s signature park project for 2019.

The updated park features a central lawn and brightly colored, engaging playground equipment, located along the edges of the lawn under shade from mature trees. The desired equipment identified by the community includes net climbers, swings, spinners, and shaded seating. PARD rebuilt the senior gardens including inclusive, raised planting beds.



Dick Nichols District Park Playground Renovation

PARD's Playground Condition Assessment identified Dick Nichols District Park playground as a candidate for replacement. The project was funded by the Council District 8 Office, the Austin Resource Recovery Recycling Challenge, and ADA funding. Originally designed as an inclusive playground, the renovation continued with the same focus.

The playground features an accessible platform to five feet in height, an inclusive spinner, musical equipment, and several interactive panels. The playground equipment replacement was also accompanied by improved ADA connections to the parking lot and a perimeter fence to define the play space and enclose a nature discovery area.

Little Stacy Neighborhood Park

PARD completed general park improvements at Little Stacy Neighborhood Park with funding from the 2012 GO Bond, Parkland Dedication Fees, and the Deferred Maintenance Fund. The improvements include installing new park walkways, park lighting, engineered wood fiber safety surface at the existing playground, a new slide at the adjacent hillside, and better plumbing and electrical infrastructure. PARD also put in new tennis court lighting and re-surfaced the court. At the existing park shelter house and restrooms, PARD replaced the roof, repaired exterior walls, installed new doors, and renovated the interior for ADA and code compliance. In addition, the department installed water quality amenities to improve erosion conditions at the park site.

Ricky Guerrero Pocket Park

In FY19, PARD completed improvements at Ricky Guerrero Pocket Park with funding from the 2012 GO Bond and Parkland Dedication Fees. The park has a new and accessible walkway, area lighting to illuminate the walkway, and a rain garden for water quality. PARD also made improvements in the picnic area, adding grills, benches, trash receptacles, and ADA-compliant picnic tables. Park patrons can enjoy newly planted landscaping grass and a revitalized playground with a new safety surface and preschool-age playscape and swing. The restrooms have also been renovated to comply with code and ADA requirements.

SUSTAINABILITY

Program Achievements

Over the past decade, an increasing number of City of Austin policies have expressed a strong commitment to environmental and fiscal sustainability. PARD established the sustainability program to integrate and expand its efforts to fulfill that commitment.

Recycling in Parks

In FY19, PARD implemented the first phase of a comprehensive recycling program for all parks. A newly-hired program manager identified and prioritized locations for new trash and recycling receptacles and optimized dumpster locations. Other priorities include reducing contamination of recycling through enhanced public messaging, encouraging organics diversion for park special events, and promoting the Leave No Trace and Pack It In, Pack It Out campaigns to encourage sustainable park use.

Energy Audits

PARD started conducting energy audits on 17 of its facilities that have the greatest opportunity for energy-efficiency improvements. The audit results will help develop the most cost-effective strategies for operating and controlling air conditioning and heating equipment and for converting to LED lighting.

Ecological Restoration

A significant component of the improvements at Emma Long Metropolitan Park is the re-establishment of a native prairie in the 13-acre central lawn. Anticipated as a focal point for the park, the prairie will feature dozens of species of native grasses and colorful wildflowers throughout the seasons, with paths meandering through it for enjoyment, education, and exercise. Ecological benefits include substantially improved biodiversity, pollinator habitat, nutrient cycling, and soil carbon sequestration.

Native prairie at the Commons Ford Metropolitan Park, as envisioned for restoration at the Emma Long Metropolitan Park.
Photo by Vincent O'Brien.



Solar Power

PARD installed 20 solar-powered lights in ten parks to enhance perceived safety and security and extend the use of the parks on dark evenings during operating hours. The department selected the locations based on extensive community input and safety statistics.

Environmental Certification

The Sustainability Team includes architects, landscape architects, and engineers with expertise in LEED and SITES ratings. Because of the department's work in these areas, PARD is pursuing certifications for multiple construction projects, including the new Montopolis Recreation Center (LEED-New Construction), the renovated and expanded Dove Springs Recreation Center (LEED-Commercial Interiors), Waterloo Park (Austin Energy Green Building), the Creek Delta project within Waterloo Greenway (SITES), and Pease Park Kingsbury Commons project (SITES).

HOMELESSNESS

People Experiencing Homelessness on Parkland

Individuals experiencing homelessness camp and store their belongings on parkland. PARD has been working to develop compassionate solutions that first connect these individuals with social service providers to help them transition out of homelessness and minimize camp site impacts to the environment.

Support Services

PARD connected individuals camping on parkland with local support services, through partnerships with local governments and organizations, including the Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST) and Travis County Integral Care's Program to Assist in the Transition from Homelessness (PATH).

National Advisory Group

As part of a national advisory group coordinated by the City of Seattle, PARD shared humane practices for managing parkland encampments.

Training

PARD served as a national model, providing training to other organizations and government agencies that are working to engage people experiencing homelessness on parkland. Staff provided this training at the National Parks and Recreation Association 2019 National Conference and to partners such as Austin Parks Foundation, The Trail Foundation, Keep Austin Beautiful, and Waterloo Greenway Conservancy.

Violet Bag Encampment Garbage Collection Pilot

The Interdepartmental Homeless Encampment Management Program (IHEMP) developed the Violet Bag Encampment Garbage Collection Pilot. As part of the ongoing pilot, IHEMP provides violet garbage bags to help individuals keep their encampments clean, minimizing the impact to the environment and health of the people residing in camps. IHEMP is a multi-departmental group that includes PARD, Austin Resource Recovery, Police and Watershed Protection Departments, Office of Design and Delivery, and Travis County Integral Care PATH Team.



Staff

1 Environmental Program Coordinator

\$75,000

Campsite Remediation

Contracted Services

With funding from the Clean Community Fee through Austin Resource Recovery, Austin Public Health, and the PARD budget, the department contracts with The Other Ones Foundation, which remediates encampment sites and provides case management services.

58 Tons

Trash and Debris Removed from Parklands



CARING FOR OUR PARKS



Yellow Bag Program

Working with Austin Resource Recovery and the Watershed Protection Department, PARD launched the Yellow Bag Program at parks, lakes, and waterways. These bags are part of the Leave No Trace initiative that PARD has been implementing in natural areas and greenspaces. As responsible stewards of city resources, staff initiated the Yellow Bag Program to make it easier to clean parks. Made with a durable, abrasive-resistant mesh, the yellow bags are produced by a Texas vendor and cost less than traditional trash can liners.



Graffiti Team

In 2018, graffiti was reported on the historic West Sixth Street Bridge over Shoal Creek. Due to the sensitivity of the environmental surroundings, PARD could not paint over the graffiti and did not want to use chemicals. Instead, the Maintenance Team worked with Texas Green Blast and used a dustless blasting option to remove the graffiti. This technique projects recycled crushed glass and water through a nozzle at a low psi. The water droplets absorb the abated paint and crushed glass and run down the wall where they are collected with a tarp. This method is a faster and more environmentally friendly way to remove graffiti.



Taking Care of our Trails

In January of 2019, PARD and the Public Works Department partnered to reconstruct the trail under the Mopac footbridge adjacent to Stratford Drive. The PARD Trails Team demolished nearly 600 linear feet of existing concrete sidewalk and then formed and poured a new concrete pathway to connect to the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail and provide a transition point from the Mopac footbridge.



Swedish Log Cabin

This historic cabin located at the Zillker Botanical Garden had a failing roof with leaks that were causing damage to the structure and interior furnishings. Using the original installation method and materials, Facility Services installed a new cedar shake roof to preserve this building and its contents.



Dick Nichols District Park

The Operations and Maintenance Division removed the existing play structures and prepped the pit for the contractor to install the new playground equipment.



MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL CENTERS



PROPOSITION B: LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS, AND CULTURAL ARTS FACILITIES

Voters passed Proposition B in November of 2018, providing \$66.5M funding for renovation and new construction of cultural centers in the parks and recreation system. PARD will spend the bond funding to construct a new Dougherty Arts Center and make improvements at the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, the Asian American Resource Center, and the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural, and Genealogy Center.

\$7,071,167

Operating Budget

351,304

Total Attendance

96,108

Attendance at
Free Cultural Events

5,624

Total Number of Events
and Programs

15,405

Total Number of Artists
In Service (Free or Paid)
by Museums and Cultural Centers

4,798

Volunteers in FY19

96%

Number of participants who
increased their knowledge
and understanding of culture,
history, and art



PHOTO BY ILANA PANICH-LINSMAN
'NOTES FROM THE BORDER'

FOTOATX CITY-WIDE PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL

In partnership with the Austin Public Library, the Museums and Cultural Programs Division inaugurated FOTOATX, an annual photography festival focused on providing a tourism draw during the "shoulder month" of August. The pilot program in January, 2018 was a resounding success. More than 18 photographers were featured at 14 sites around the city.



ARTIST ACCESS PROGRAM PILOTS

Funded by City Council in December 2017 through the Hotel Occupancy Tax, the Artist Access Program provides free or low-cost access to rehearsal and production spaces to both emerging and established visual and performing artists. Created to address the needs of local artists, participating organizations collaborate with the PARD's Cultural Centers to produce professional arts presentations of theater, dance, and visual arts for both local and visiting audiences. PARD served 13 arts organizations in FY19, the pilot year of the program.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS



CARVER EXHIBITIONS RECEIVE RECOGNITION

In FY19, the George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural and Genealogy Center received local, regional, and national attention for a slate of exhibitions that bolstered the site's visibility.

In March of 2019, the exhibit "constant escape," featuring the work of Adrian Aguilera, Tammie Rubin, and Betelhem Makonnen, was selected as the top exhibition by Glasstire, a Texas-wide visual arts weekly. This exhibition was also reviewed in Art in America by Sean J. Patrick Carney and applauded for its versatile treatment of the complex social and economic ecologies that black and brown people in the United States must navigate.

In May of 2019, Taja Lindley's exhibition, "Re-Membering is the Responsibility of the Living" was nominated by the Austin Critics Table for Best Museum Exhibition. In June of 2019, both Taja Lindley's exhibition and "constant escape" were reviewed in the Austin Chronicle by Robert Faires in an article that connected the state of captivity still experienced by people of color to the museum's original mission to serve as a key source of information on the history and celebration of Juneteenth.

PARTNERSHIPS

COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR IN MULTIPLE ASIAN LANGUAGES

On April 6, 2019, the Asian American Resource Center (AARC), in collaboration with Austin Public Health's Health Equity Unit and the Austin Asian Community Health Initiative, Inc. (AACHI), hosted a Community Health Fair with interpretation services in over 12 languages including Burmese, Nepalese, Arabic, Farsi, Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Spanish. At the event, several Austin-area health service providers offered free health screenings, immunizations, and dental, vision, and primary care resources to attendees. More than 150 people registered for the event, 90% of which identified themselves as limited English proficiency (LEP). The AARC, Austin Public Health's Health Equity Unit, and AACHI plan to expand the event next year to include more interpreters and volunteers to assist more LEP attendees.



LA MUJER

The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center's (ESB-MACC) "La Mujer, A Celebration of Women" on April 13, 2019 celebrated women's achievements in the arts. Dolores Huerta, who is honored at the ESB-MACC in two murals that represent role models of the Chicano Movement, visited the ESB-MACC to speak to students in the Caminos Teen Leadership Program. The teens created a mural that represents Huerta alongside other heroines. The mural will be a public art installation at the ESB-MACC until the end of 2020.



HONORABLE MENTION

The O. Henry House Museum is known internationally. In FY19 the museum was featured in a literature-inspired travel blog called Weird Literary Destinations: The O. Henry Museum, Austin, Texas. Susanna Dickinson-Hannig's Museum explores the life and times of Susanna Dickinson who was one of 19 survivors of the Alamo. This year the Dickinson-Hannig House Museum was featured in Atlas Obscura as one of the top places to visit in Austin.



EVENTS IN OUR PARKS





Event Bookings 2,200

At 36 Picnic Facilities and
Four Event Facilities

Special Ceremonies 13

Openings, Ribbon Cuttings,
or Ground Breakings

Filming Permits 217

Film Workers 3,261

Cast, Crew, Staff, Talent

Hours of Filming 1,596

Filming Donations \$15,325

Ticket Fees \$1.45M



Photo by Austin Parks Foundation



KEEP AUSTIN SWIMMING



Photo by Amitava Sarker

“Givens Swims”

“Givens Swims” featured the everyday movement of the people who swim at and maintain the pool. From neighborhood teens to community elders, the story of Givens Pool was told by the people who have long worked, lived, and played around this historic place.

As part of “Givens Swims,” artists Cindy Elizabeth and Ernesto Hernandez created temporary installations at Givens Pool. In collaboration with Forklift Danceworks’ performances, their art work brought in additional community stories. Commissioned through the City of Austin Art in Public Places program, this collaboration and creative research connects My Park, My Pool, My City to a permanent artistic work at the future renovated Givens Pool.

MAINTENANCE

Behind the scenes, the Aquatic Maintenance Team operates, services, and repairs each of the aquatic facilities in our system. Increased funding for the 2019 fiscal year to the Aquatic Maintenance budget assisted with routine and emergency maintenance issues.

During FY19, the Aquatic Division was able to complete several large-scale projects and renovations at Dove Springs, Reed, Garrison, and Walnut Creek Pools.

In FY19, pool maintenance, renovation, and projects included:

- Replumbing filters
- Installing new pumps and motors
- Painting pool shells with products that help minimize leaks
- Replacing water lines
- Installing a new deck around a pool
- Replacing gutter gates around a pool
- Searching for and repairing leaks
- Rebuilding old pump motors to serve as emergency backups
- Responding to emergency electrical issues
- Replacing back wash valves
- Installing tile



Photo by Amitava Sarkar

LIFEGUARDS



Austin City Council declared June 6, 2019 as Gus Munson Aquatic Safety Awareness Day. Gus (age 17), a City of Austin trained lifeguard, noticed a distressed swimmer while he was out with his family. He fearlessly entered the river, which had a strong current, and heroically saved the young man's life.



45
Aquatic Facilities



535,622
Public Pool Visits



952,329
Visits to Barton Springs Pool



36
Full-time Employees



960+
Temporary Employees



3k+
Learn-to-Swim Participants



868
Swim Team Participants



240
Project Safe Participants



243
Swim Safe Participants

GOLF ATX

Golfers of all ages and skill levels visit the Golf ATX courses to play recreationally and competitively. Growing the game is a top priority for the Golf Division. In FY19, the Division hosted 73 golf clinics with nearly 400 participants.

- Changed monthly RangeGrinder member clinics to free general public golf clinics
- Added a second free monthly golf clinic for women
- Hosted a free USGA Rules Clinic to review the new USGA rule changes

Outreach and Marketing

The Golf Division broadened reach to new and existing customers through marketing and outreach:

- Engaged and increased followers on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
- Maintained the Golf ATX website as a resource to the Austin golfing community
- Ran radio campaigns on KUT, KUTX, KLBJ FM, and KROX
- Renewed agreement with Texas Golf Insider for print ads, digital ads and two live interviews on the TGI radio show.
- Broadcasted KLBJ's 19th Hole radio program live from the Firecracker Open, featuring an interview with Lions' pro manager and the tournament winner
- Launched new Golf ATX logo items for sale in each of the pro shops, including caps, apparel, golf balls, ball markers, and divot tools

ACCOLADES

Dallas Morning News Annual List of TOP RANKED GOLF COURSES

TOP 50 PUBLIC GOLF COURSES

46 Grey Rock

TOP 25 ECONOMY GOLF COURSES

7 Roy Kizer

11 Jimmy Clay

13 Morris Williams



360 Campers

Promoting Junior Golf

Golf ATX promoted junior golf by organizing the Austin Junior Golf Academy Camp, the Summer Junior Golf Tour series, and beginner junior clinics. Additionally, Golf ATX hosted the Division 1A, 2A, 3A UIL State Championship, and partnered with the Southern Texas PGA's junior program, First Tee of Austin and U.S. Kids Golf.



Course Maintenance

The Construction Team completed numerous projects, including drainage improvements at multiple golf courses, a practice green renovation and new range targets at Grey Rock Golf Course, and greens sod repairs at Clay/Kizer, Grey Rock, and Morris Williams Golf Courses. The Project Team also undertook the renovation of the Matthew Brown House. Constructed of native stone and originally built in approximately 1865, the house will become office space for the Golf Division and several PARD safety staff.

Sustainable Operations

The Golf Division hosted the National Golf Foundation (NGF) in its study of the city's golf system, which reviewed operations, efficiencies and future potential. NGF consultants summarily found the city's golf system has great potential to improve its net income performance and create a sustainable operational model for public golf in Austin. Per NGF, the city golf courses also produce the highest number of rounds played on public golf courses in the area.

235k Rounds Played

6 Public Courses

Six 18-hole courses and one short course

Tournaments and Events

Golf ATX is a significant community resource, hosting tournaments, golf associations and leagues, golf outings, company outings, and community events – including a 5k and disc golf championship.

300 Hosted Events

10 Adult Tournaments with 875 Participants

7 Junior Tournaments with 197 Juniors and 25 Junior/Adult Teams

ATHLETICS

Adult Sport Leagues

The Athletics Programs Office provides the community with adult sports programs that increase quality of life, promote an active lifestyle, and build a strong community. These programs are offered across Austin, serving hundreds of thousands of community members and offering opportunities to participate in locations that are close to their residence. During FY19 the Athletics Office programmed the following adult league hours:

Adult League Play Hours:

4.9k	Softball
800	Volleyball
550	Basketball
300	Flag Football
6.5k	Total Hours



Youth Sport Organization Partnership

16,158

YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

Baseball, Football, Softball,
and Soccer Leagues

269,469

RESERVATIONS

Tennis and Pickleball Courts

58.7k

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Providing Field Maintenance,
Coaching, and Umpiring/Refereeing

1,957

FREE LESSONS

Through the National Junior
Tennis and Learning Partnership



HEALTHY KIDS

290
STUDENTS

Ages: Pre-K - 8th Grade

97,792
MEALS to YOUTH

Ages: 18 and Under

Small Bites

A program that connects math, language arts, and science concepts to hands-on experiences, giving young people tools to live longer, healthier lives. The lessons are aligned to National Health Education Standards and support the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and Next Generation Science Standards.

Youth Meals Program

PARD and the Central Texas Food Bank have partnered together to make it easy for kids to practice healthy eating habits after the school day has ended. Children under the age of 18 can enjoy a free, nutritious meal at PARD locations throughout the city.

YOUTH AND TEEN OUTREACH PROGRAMS

1,396

YOUTH Ages: 5 - 12

Summer Playgrounds

A free, drop-in program for youth to participate in fun, supervised, outdoor activities during the summer months. Summer Playgrounds staff provides quality recreational experiences that promote healthy living, character building, and teamwork through collaborative and active play.

38

TEENS Ages: 13 - 17

Teens in Leadership Together

A free program that offers professional development and/or employment within PARD.

134

TEENS Ages: 13 - 17

Roving Leaders

A free, drop-in program that teaches teens life skills and incorporates social-emotional learning to explore difficult topics teens encounter daily, such as violence, addiction, and peer pressure. Youth are given a safe space to practice problem solving and encouraged to use critical thinking skills. The philosophy of the program is to aid and enhance the quality of life for the teens of Austin by providing a variety of exceptional recreation, education, and cultural activities.



246

TEENS
Ages: 13 - 17

Totally Cool, Totally Art

A free teen program that reinforces positive choices by offering visual and performing arts appreciation in a mentoring environment.



Youth Financial Assistance and Scholarships

For Austin residents that receive, or are eligible to receive free lunch benefits, PARD offers a 50% discount on registration costs for all Youth Programs. Recipients also have the opportunity to apply for the Scott Johnson Youth Scholarship, which reduces registration costs by an additional 25%, up to \$300.

\$173,250

Discounted Fees

1,521 youth participants received \$151,080 in discounted program fees.

1,521

Youth ages 18 and Under

461 Scott Johnson Youth Scholarship recipients received an additional \$22,170 in discounted program fees.

Therapeutic Programs

Danny G. McBeth (Therapeutic) Recreation Center

McBeth Recreation Center's adult day-habilitation program, The Good Neighbor Adventure Club, partnered with Ghisallo Cycling Initiative to start an adaptive recumbent trike program that aims to challenge riders with increasing distances, navigating obstacle courses, and riding off-campus. During the program, PARD and Ghisallo employees assisted adult riders in navigating a looped course through the newly paved outdoor track at McBeth Recreation Center. The track was made possible through the Friends of McBeth and funding through Austin Parks Foundation's Community Grant. Since starting the program, the riders have shown great improvement in arm, hand and leg mobility, breaking, steering, and decision making.

9,096*

Inclusion Unit Assistance Hours for Youth and Adults

Includes indirect and direct assistance such as assessments and program modification plans for youth and adults of all abilities and disabilities.

* Excludes Danny G. McBeth (Therapeutic) Recreation Center staff work hours.

500

Support Services Training Hours

Youth development programming staff completed over 500 training hours focused on inclusion, diversity, positive behavior support, and modification plans for youth and adults of all abilities and disabilities.



RECREATION CENTERS

20

Recreation Centers

17 Community Centers
3 Senior Activity Centers
1 Senior Transportation Unit

Community recreation centers provide a strong connection to Austin neighborhoods, offering a wide array of programming for all ages, including camps, sports, health and wellness, art, music, and more.

Recreation centers also host community events, community resource fairs, bbq contests, movies in the park, and even an acoustical café featuring local and national musicians. Recreation and senior centers provide a comprehensive menu of activities and events for all ages and abilities to come together, connect with each other, and create community.



Mervin J. “Merv” Griffin Gymnasium

Longtime PARD staff member, Mervin J. “Merv” Griffin, passed away on December 18, 2018. To commemorate his 29 years of service with the department and countless hours of service, mentorship, and dedication to the community, PARD renamed the gymnasium at the Virginia L. Brown Recreation Center in his honor on July 23, 2019.



The Monster Project

This year, PARD introduced the Monster Project. This was a city-wide art initiative where summer camp attendees created their own monster drawings and submitted them to the Monster Project. The Monster Project then paired the pieces with professional artists from around the world who re-created the monster in their own style. Artists were supplied by the Monster Project founder and president, Katie Johnson. PARD exhibited the results of the collaboration at Doris Miller Auditorium, where more than 200 amazed youth got to see the results of their creations.





Toddler Sports Program

In response to community requests, the Community Recreation Division implemented two new sports programs for toddlers. The concept of the program is to provide an opportunity for participants to make friends and to create community. The two-tiered program offers a Toddler Sports FUNLeague and Toddler Sports FUNdamentals. Each program introduces basic skills needed for soccer, baseball, flag football, and basketball. All participants have the opportunity to learn good sportsmanship, team building, and the fundamentals of youth sports. Nine recreation centers implemented the program in FY19, with 179 toddlers participating.



50 Plus Services Unit

The 50 Plus Services Unit has been busy providing a multitude of opportunities, services, and experiences. The Senior Transportation Unit provides daily rides in Austin for community members to visit senior activity centers and attend shopping trips and medical visits. This year, the unit provided more than 16,000 rides—an increase of 13% over the last 3 years. The Bringing Seniors Together event series featured monthly events for 50 plus participants across Austin. Some of the highlights of the year included Thanksgiving Turkey Bingo, a Senior Health Expo, a Mardi Gras event, and an Easter egg hunt at Emma Long Metropolitan Park. Lastly, PARD hosted the Austin Senior Games, bringing together active, older adults to compete in three days of sports, leisure, and field competitions. The FY19 Senior Games featured 21 events with over 345 registered participants.

Austin Acoustical Café

Austin Acoustical Café returned to Lamar Senior Activity Center after a three year hiatus. The program brings local and national musicians to perform and is a co-sponsorship with the Live Music Capital Foundation and Lamar Senior Activity Center. Austin Acoustical Café provides a positive social and cultural experience for residents and visitors alike to form community bonds over music. This year there were 16 performers with an average of 150 visitors for each of the eight nights. This marks a 77% increase in visitors compared to past years.

NATURAL RESOURCES



Louis René Barrera Indiangrass Wildlife Sanctuary

The preserve system sustained a great loss in 2019 with the death of longtime staff member René Barrera. René was the primary caretaker of the preserves for many years, and worked tirelessly to care for them and to educate thousands of volunteers through service projects in the preserves. The Indiangrass Wildlife Preserve was renamed in his honor.

Parkland provides opportunities to enjoy and connect with nature in Austin. The Natural Resources Programs Division works to provide a safe, enjoyable space where people can connect with nature through the Austin Nature and Science Center, Zilker Botanical Garden, Beverly S. Sheffield “Splash! into the Edwards Aquifer Exhibit,” Austin’s nature preserve system, community gardens, park rangers, and the Forestry Team.

8,553 Volunteer Hours Worked on Parkland Projects

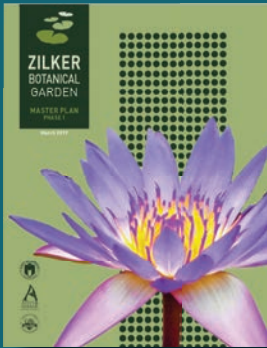
Austin Nature Preserve System

- Blowing Sink Preserve was renamed the William H. Russell Karst Preserve, in honor of longtime spelunker and cave advocate William Russell.
- A Land Management Plan is underway for the Louis René Barrera Indiangrass Wildlife Preserve, with another near completion for the William H. Russell Karst Preserve.

- City Council provided support for Austin’s preserve system by increasing the funding for personnel and approving a modest operating budget in FY20 for the new Land Management Program Unit. The new Environmental Conservation Program Manager for Land Management will oversee two Environmental Program Coordinator positions, one that was previously the Wildlife Austin Program Coordinator, and a new position that will primarily manage homeless encampment cleanups on parkland. This represents much-needed growth and support for the preserves, which will now have dedicated staff and budgetary resources.
- The Office of the City Auditor completed a wildfire audit and recommended additional land management planning for park natural areas. This included adding treatments for wildfire, such as shaded fuel breaks and mowing breaks along certain parkland boundaries.

Community Gardens

- Lamplight Community Garden at Alderbrook Neighborhood Park held its groundbreaking in November 2018.
- Northwest Community Garden at the PARD Northwest Recreation Center has completed their application requirements and is expected to be added as a new community garden in early FY20.



Master Plan Phase I:
Community engagement completed.

112,041
Total Visitors

1,209
Free Admission

\$235,658
Total Revenue

Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy

In August 2019, City Council approved the negotiation of a more formal partnership with the Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy (ZBGC). Starting in FY20, the ZBGC will officially operate the entrance gate to the Zilker Botanical Garden and will be the lead nonprofit partner.

School programs grew through the partnership with ZBGC. The school field trip program was enhanced to include a hands-on, take-home project.

ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDEN



Taniguchi Japanese Garden 50th Anniversary

April 2019 marked the 50th anniversary of the historic Taniguchi Japanese Garden, which was celebrated through themed events.

NATURE BASED PROGRAMS

Beverly S. Sheffield Education Center



67,113
Drop-in Visitors

In 2019, the “Splash! Into the Edwards Aquifer Exhibit” at the Beverly S. Sheffield Education Center taught visitors from all over the world about the Edwards Aquifer, Barton Springs Salamanders, and water conservation. In 2019, the “Splash! Exhibit” featured “Spirit Waters,” a temporary exhibit developed and curated by PARD staff. The “Spirit Waters” exhibit featured the cultural history of Native Americans and their relationship to the springs. In 2020, the exhibit will be displayed at the Universal City Public Library.

Austin Nature and Science Center



156,332
Drop-in Visitors

- Expanded the play yard at Nature's Way Preschool, giving the students more room to run, jump, and play in nature.
- Replaced windows in the Solarium overlooking the pond, creating a beautiful view for visitors.
- Landscaped and installed a bench in the Sun Dial Exhibit.
- Covered the interior of the Animal Exhibit Isle in stucco, reducing health and safety risks to animals and staff.

Accomplishments

Many exciting facility and maintenance updates happened in FY19 at the Austin Nature and Science Center.

- Installed energy-efficient lighting in the buildings at headquarters.
- Improved health and safety in the Wildlife Exhibits, including expanding exercise and play space for Moxie the bobcat, installing fans and misters to help combat heat, and implementing a new pest control plan.

- **263 onsite school programs provided hands-on science education to 15,817 Austin area children, aligning with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills standards.**
- **8,962 children participated in 181 On-Your-Own Tours, exploring and connecting with nature while learning about native Central Texas animals.**

Lorraine "Grandma" Camacho Activity Center



Accomplishments

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department awarded the Lorraine "Grandma" Camacho Activity Center a \$50,000 CO-OP Grant. PARD used the funds to lead more than 600 youth and teens in outdoor adventures and natural

science programs and to repair aging recreation equipment.

Dirt Divas, an all-girls outdoor adventure club, expanded in FY19, partnering with Switched On to expose the girls to STEM and offering an overnight campout where 3rd – 5th graders used skills gained throughout the year.

Youth and teens in the Mountain Bike Racing Club travel across Texas, competing in races sponsored by the National Interscholastic Cycling Association. In FY19, Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine highlighted the team and a PARD staff member who was in the club in middle school.

31,318 Youth Program Participation Hours



PARK RANGERS

Park ranger programs focus on conserving habitat, Responsible Recreation and Leave No Trace. Rangers led hikes, climbs, archery, and fishing activities. Every ranger-led activity focuses on conserving Austin's natural spaces and recreating responsibly.

46,056

Total park ranger discussions with public. Of this, 35,381 were education-based.

24,176

People attended 608 ranger-led programs.

1,053

People volunteered at 46 ranger-led events.

3,469

Volunteer hours

FORESTRY

Some of the oldest and most recognized trees require special attention. The Forestry Team excavated the root flare of one live oak at Shipe Neighborhood Park, fitted two trees at Heritage Oaks Neighborhood Park with lightning protection systems, designed and installed a custom prop beneath a cracked limb on the southernmost Auction Oak, pruned and mulched the trees at Margret Hofman Oak Park.

Oak wilt is an infectious vascular disease caused by the fungus *Bretziella fagacearum* and has killed more than one million trees in Central Texas. In 2019, the Forestry Team facilitated the



treatment of more than 300 trees on parkland that were either diagnosed with the disease or adjacent to infected trees. There are currently seven PARD properties with known oak wilt mortality on the site itself or the property immediately adjacent.



Westcave Outdoor Discovery Center
2019 John Ahrens Award
for Environmental Education through
Children in Nature Collaborative of Austin:
Park Ranger Kerstin Johansson



2019 Texas chapter of the International Society of
Arboriculture Texas Tree Climbing Championships:
Women's Division Winner
Cindy Abbot (center right)

6,698
Trees Maintained

3,850
Trees Inspected

311
Live Oaks Treated
for Oak Wilt

536
Trees Planted

451
Trees Removed

\$200k
Partner Donations

2M
Pounds of Recycled
Wood Debris

HISTORIC CEMETERIES



Cemetery Operations strives to honor the past, present, and future of Austin's sacred municipal burial grounds with integrity, empathy, and respect.

The City of Austin was founded in 1839 and shortly thereafter the State of Texas deeded what is now known as Oakwood Cemetery to the city. Today, City of Austin Cemetery Operations, a division of PARD, manages the grounds, administrative operations, burials, and historic resources of Austin's municipal cemeteries.

The dedicated staff serves the community of Austin and has increased its level of care to more than 400 families that arrange interment services every year across the city's municipal cemeteries.

Cemetery Operations Maintenance Team cares for a complex natural and built landscape that consists of more than 200 acres of cemetery grounds, more than 80,000 burials, and five historic buildings located across Austin. The Maintenance Team opens the gates of each municipal cemetery 365 days each year.

Municipal Cemeteries:

- Austin Memorial Park Cemetery
- Evergreen Cemetery
- Oakwood Cemetery
- Oakwood Annex Cemetery
- Plummers Cemetery

Family Cemeteries:

- Cemetery at Longview Park
- Stanley-Nolen Cemetery at Garrison Park

\$2.8M
Operating
Budget

178.97
Acres of
Cemetery

80k+
Graves

470
Interments
in FY19

20
Full-time
Staff

5
Historic
Buildings



SERVICES AVAILABLE

- Interment services
- Pre-need planning
- Grave location and genealogical research
- Monument setting and leveling
- Grave revegetation
- Grave liner sales
- Invertible vase sale and installation

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Cemetery Operations continues to complete improvement projects, serve and engage the community, and expand its staff.

- Evergreen Cemetery was designated as a Historic Texas Cemetery
- Replaced the fence and restored the gate at Oakwood and Oakwood Annex Cemeteries
- Developed a Monument Team within Grounds Maintenance that set more than 35 new and reset over 70 existing monuments
- Platted the new Section 14A at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery
- Hosted an It's My Park Day event at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery
- Began mapping cemeteries in GIS for future database integration
- Completed internal five-year strategic plan





austintexas.gov/parks