

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2015



## DIRECTOR MESSAGE

*We are committed to providing a balanced, sustainable, and value-focused system of parks, recreation, and public spaces that create a sense of community.*



*In fiscal year 2014-15, the Austin Parks and Recreation Department made key improvements across the city, resulting in safer, better maintained parks as well as more equitable access to recreational opportunities.*

*Working in close collaboration with our stakeholders, and input from our neighbors and active community groups, we will enhance our parks, recreation facilities, and cultural programs to meet the needs of our vibrant, growing, and diverse community. We will continue to make our programs more accessible, affordable, and relevant to those who need them the most. The Department hopes to build on last fiscal year's efforts as we improve and expand our core services, increase the quality of care provided to our valuable parkland assets, and build towards the vision laid out in the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan.*



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

## BOARD CHAIR MESSAGE

*As the Parks and Recreation Board Chair, it is my pleasure to help protect Austin's cultural places and natural spaces for the future.*



*Advocating on behalf of the community, the Board is responsible for advising the City Council and City Manager on the acquisition, development, and improvement of city parks, public playgrounds and programs. Our role becomes more relevant as Austin's growth continues to soar and neighborhoods strive to maintain nearby parkland. Promoting cooperation between city staff, private citizens, institutions, and agencies interested in conducting recreational activities, we can achieve our goal of coordinating resources within the city to secure the greatest public welfare.*

*The Parks and Recreation Board meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Board and Commissions Room at City Hall. These meetings are open to the public, and we welcome you to attend and advise us of your parks and recreation needs through Citizen's Communication. Together, we can strengthen relationships, preserve our parks, and improve our quality of life.*

*Jane Rivera, Chair  
Parks and Recreation Board*



### The Austin Chronicle Best of Austin 2015—Outdoors & Recreation

#### Readers Poll

Best Swimming—Barton Springs  
Best Festival—Austin City Limits (ACL)

#### Critics Poll

Hidden Hike—Blunn Creek Nature Preserve  
Best Weekday Secret—Bull Creek District Park  
Most Formidable Footpath—Roberta Crenshaw Pedestrian Walkway



## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITMENT

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department has been the trusted steward of the city's parkland since 1928 when the population was approximately 50,000. More than 85 years later with a community of almost one million, the Department continues to serve the public by providing, protecting and preserving a park system that promotes quality recreational, cultural and outdoor experiences. Over the years, our mission has not changed, but the way we practice our profession has evolved to keep pace with Austin's exponential growth.

The Department is recognized for excellence in operation and service by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), and aligns itself with the industry values defined by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the leading non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of public parks, recreation and conservation.

Adhering to best practices, we offer an essential public service and demonstrate our economic value, health and environmental benefits, and social importance by improving the overall quality of life for Austin residents and visitors.

### **National Wildlife Federation—*Wildest City***

#### ***Keep Austin Wild***

In March of 2015, the National Wildlife Federation named Austin "America's best city for wildlife, boasting the most Certified Wildlife Habitats per capita".

The City of Austin adopted *Imagine Austin*, the 30-year comprehensive plan for our future, in June of 2012. Recognizing that Austin's most valuable asset is its people, the city's vision builds upon its reputation of being a model for sustainability, social equity and economic opportunity.



For more information, visit:  
[austintexas.gov/imagineaustin](http://austintexas.gov/imagineaustin)

**Austin is Livable, Natural & Sustainable, Mobile & Interconnected, Prosperous, Values & Respects its People, Creative & Educated**

Additionally, eight priority programs were created to help transform this vision into a reality. The priority programs that parks and recreation services will impact include:

## Priority Program 4

Use Green Infrastructure to Protect Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Integrate Nature into the City

## Priority Program 5

Grow and Invest in Austin's Creative Economy

## Priority Program 7

Create a Healthy Austin

In order to meet these priorities, the Department is committed to engaging the public and partnering with organizations to create a better future. As the demand for open space and recreation services increases, we have an obligation to innovate new ways of doing business to make Austin the best managed city in the country.

*¡Viva México!*

*Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center*



# RECREATION IS A BIG JOB WE'RE HERE TO DO IT

*The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Department is to provide, protect and preserve a park system that promotes quality recreational, cultural and outdoor experiences for the Austin community.*



Austin is known for its greenspace, so it's no surprise that 14.5% of the city's total acreage is parkland. In fact, there's an average of 30 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents and half of the population can walk to a park within half a mile. Zilker Park, Austin's crown jewel, is 308 acres and boasts more than 3,275,000 annual visits.

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for 300 parks and maintains over 20,000 acres of greenspace. But it's not all just open space, we're also in charge of parks and recreation amenities, cemeteries and golf courses; we host community events, provide educational programs, and deliver public services.



## **National Recreation and Park Association—Grant Recipient**

### ***Out-of-School Time Programs***

NRPA is partnering with the Walmart Foundation to support healthy out-of-school time, food access, and nutrition literacy. Austin is one of 80 local park and recreation agencies that received grant funds to increase the number of healthy meals children in low-income communities receive.

# National Recreation and Park Association—Grant Recipient

## Parks Build Community

NRPA and The Walt Disney Company have partnered to help revitalize and restore local parks and park programs. Votes were cast, and the public selected Austin's Battle Bend Park Basketball Court as one of 15 winning projects. Upgrades include new backboards and rims, court resurfacing and new lighting.



300 parks &  
20,000+ acres of  
greenspace



78 mixed-use  
fields



5 disc golf courses



212 miles  
of trails



35 baseball  
fields



9 x-treme sports  
facilities & tracks

12 dog parks



23 soccer  
fields



23 historic  
buildings



124 tennis  
courts



78 basketball  
courts



11 museums, arts &  
cultural centers

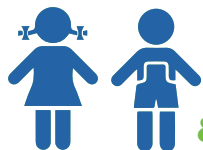
35 swimming  
pools



49 volleyball  
courts



10 stages &  
amphitheaters



26 recreation  
& senior centers



6 golf courses



5 cemeteries



### ***Memorial Day Floods***

Central Texas was devastated by flooding over Memorial Day 2015. The highest flood recorded in Texas history, footage of water surging at Barton Springs Pool went viral on social media. As Austin's creeks continued to rise and the rain fell harder, the Department started to assess the damage. City pools, parks and trails were impacted by the flooding, but maintenance staff were hard at work to clean up quickly so the public could get outside and play again.

During fiscal year 2014-15 (October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015), the Department recruited and hired 68 positions, increasing the total number of full-time employees to 703. Our team of dedicated professionals is responsible for providing public service in one of the following areas:

Grounds Maintenance, Facility Services, Capital Improvement Projects, Planning and Development, Aquatic and Athletic Programs, Community and Centralized Programs, Museums and Cultural Programs, Nature Based Programs, Golf Services, Marketing and Communications, Management Services and Financial Services.

In addition to full-time staff, the Department hired a total of 1222 temporary positions to assist staff with daily operations and seasonal service demands. Nineteen student interns worked with the Department from nine different colleges and universities across the United States. Professional development is important to the Austin Parks and Recreation Department and is encouraged by management with a total of 1480 employees attending training last year. Workplace safety is also emphasized and a new Safety Team was created to conduct audits, inspections and offer on the job training. An astounding 92 classes were offered by the Safety Team their first year.



The Department's nature and adventure programs were recognized as a model in the industry for their unique approach to inclusion that spans generations regardless of ability.

Camacho Activity Center and Inclusion Support Services staff presented at NRPA's annual conference. *Last Child in the Hood: Providing Nature-Based Programming to Under-Served Populations* highlighted outreach efforts with recreation centers and school groups to provide outdoor programming to students who may not otherwise have the opportunity to take part in nature-based activities.

Additionally, staff at McBeth Recreation Center presented at the American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) conference about their Outdoor Adventure Club program. *Belay on! Inclusive Outdoor Programming* explained how a functional hiking measurement tool called the ICAN/Hiking was used to track the progress of participants in the club. The program was a huge success and colleagues within the therapeutic recreation profession invited Austin Parks and Recreation staff to teach the technique at the conference. This is just one example of the innovative programs that McBeth Recreation Center offers to Austin's children and adults with disabilities.

### ***Good Morning America's Lifeguard Surf & Turf Showdown Finalists***

City of Austin lifeguards eagerly accepted the Good Morning America's summer challenge. Their video submission featured Barton Springs Pool staff performing "Shut Up and Dance" by Walk the Moon and was one of three finalists selected by public vote. The team flew to New York City to compete live on Good Morning America, demonstrating the courage and strength required to be a lifeguard.



# BUDGET OVERVIEW

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department has three major sources of funding with 85% coming from the city's General Fund during fiscal year 2014-15.

These funds were primarily used for Community Services (52%), Parks, Planning and Operations (29.5%), and Support Services (7.7%). Last year, the total budget for the Department was \$83,462,865.

## By the Numbers

2014-15

### General Fund

Revenue	\$9,987,031
Requirements	\$70,900,480
Full-Time Equivalents	637.75

### Golf Fund

Revenue	\$7,457,850
Requirements	\$7,227,560
Full-Time Equivalents	41.00

### Expense Refunds

\$4,223,825

### Grants

Requirements	\$1,111,000
Full-Time Equivalents	3.00

**TOTAL BUDGET** \$83,462,865

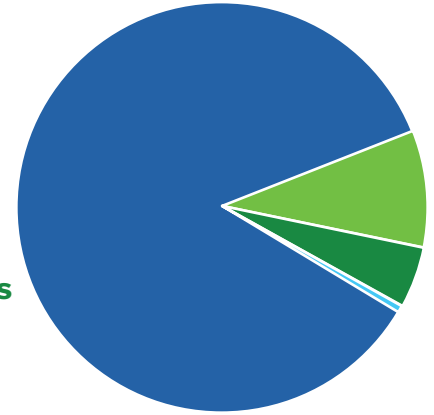
## Funding Sources

85.8%  
General Fund

9.2%  
Golf Fund

4.8%  
Expense Refunds

0.2%  
Grants



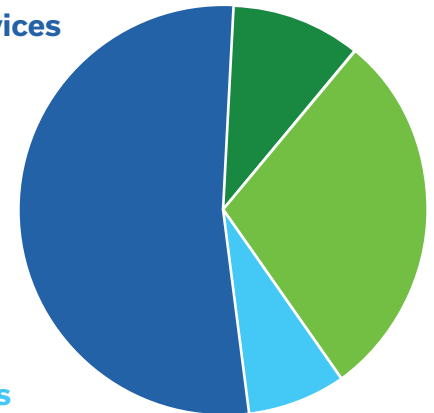
## Funding Uses

52.4%  
Community Services

29.5%  
Parks, Planning,  
Operations

10.4%  
Other

7.7%  
Support Services



# DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department uses more than 50% of its funding on community services, including programs for all ages and abilities. Our activity, recreation and cultural centers are bustling with day-to-day adult and youth programming. Our goal is to provide an inclusive environment where Austinites can be active, experience culture and socialize.

If you haven't visited our centers or participated in one of our programs, we encourage you to do so. We have so much to offer the community—from after school to summer camps, kayaking to rock climbing, jazzercise to zumba—we've got something for all ages to enjoy.

## Rounds Report

### TOTAL ROUNDS PLAYED

Jimmy Clay	*16,789
Hancock	19,328
Lions	56,050
Roy Kizer	38,555
Morris Williams	50,777

\*Closed for renovations

Men's City Championship	145
Women's City Championship	33
Senior City Championship	66

## GOLF ATX

In February of 2015, Jimmy Clay Golf Course closed for 6 months for renovations. Holes 4, 5, 9 and 18 were reshaped and realigned for improved play. The remaining course was reconstructed, including a new drainage system and resurfacing. The Clay/Kizer driving range was enlarged, tee area and targets reshaped, the irrigation replaced and new grass was planted.

The Golf Division hosted its annual six week long Summer Junior Tour with over 300 participants, averaging 63 junior golfers per tournament, which is a 7% increase from 2014. Participation in the City Junior Championships has increased by 50% compared to last year.

115 Golf Clinics were offered at our public courses with a total of 811 participants



An estimated 22,750 adults played in Austin's public sports leagues during fiscal year 2014-15

## ATHLETICS

The Athletics Office welcomed the Triple Crown Summer Nationals Series Tournament to Austin from July 22 - 26, 2015. The tournament hosted 214 girls fastpitch teams from 11 different states, spanning 10-under to 18-under age divisions. Over 4,000 people attended the Opening Ceremony at Krieg Complex to listen to Jennie Finch, former USA Women's Softball team pitcher and Olympic Gold Medalist, speak to the crowd of young inspiring fastpitch athletes. At the end of the Opening Ceremony, the University of Texas Softball Head Coach Connie Clark held a Softball Player Clinic.

Experiencing Austin's unique culture, including live music, food trucks, green spaces, and sports complexes won over the fastpitch players. In fact, the Triple Crown Summer Nationals Series was such a success the tournament will return to Austin over the next four years.



## AQUATICS

City of Austin lifeguards were in the limelight in 2015. In addition to appearing on *Good Morning America's Lifeguard Surf & Turf Showdown*, they won the Texas State Lifeguard Championship. When not guarding the pools, Aquatic staff were busy asking the public about their aquatic needs through a community engagement program called Swim 512. The feedback from this process will help inform the Aquatic Master Plan.

More than 1.25 million people attended Austin's public pools fiscal year 2014-15

## SWIM ATX

Launched in January of 2015, the Aquatic Division partnered with the Austin Independent School District and YMCA of Austin to create a new community collaboration. The Swim ATX program invites local high school students to earn credit for swimming classes and sign up for lifeguard certification during finals week at no cost. The class curriculum teaches students the essential skills needed to become a City of Austin lifeguard.





## RECREATION

Outdoor recreation and adventure programming has gained popularity in Austin. Partnering with our Inclusion Support Services team, Camacho Activity Center has developed adaptive rock climbing programs for McBeth Recreation Center, and a weekly senior citizen rock climbing and rappelling class—Active Adult Adventure Club.

Climbing is also popular indoors, and we have seven rock walls that allow participants to practice in a safe environment before heading outside. At Northwest Recreation Center programs such as Kid's Climbing Club and Family Climbing Program teach skills to keep all ages safe and active.

Our Senior Activity Center participants also enjoy high adventure activities. Notable excursions throughout 2014-15 include zip-lining over Lake Travis and hiking at Enchanted Rock. The Conley-Guerrero Senior Activity Center partnered with the Ghisallo Foundation and Bike Austin to offer a tricycle program focused on trail safety.

## SALTILLO, MEXICO

This past summer, recreation staff partnered with the Seton Brain and Spine Institute to host the wheelchair basketball team from Austin's sister city—Saltillo, Mexico—for an afternoon of adaptive kayaking and an exciting game of water basketball.

Our new ADA kayaking dock and wheelchair access ramp made this experience possible, and is instrumental in the ongoing success of our adaptive paddling programs like our weekly senior citizen kayaking group.



The Austin Nature & Science Center was awarded Best Nature Camp from Austin Family Magazine, and was named one of the Top 10 Places to Take Kids in Austin from Kids Out and About.



## ORGAN-WISE GUYS

As a recipient of the NRPA Out-of-School Time Grant, we integrated OrganWise Guys curriculum within our Summer Playground Program. The goal was to promote lifelong healthy eating habits and physically active lifestyles. A total of 870 children were taught OrganWise Guys lessons.

At the Summer Playgrounds Program closing ceremony, family members shared with staff the healthy lifestyle changes they witnessed at home resulting from the OrganWise Guys program.

## KEEP AUSTIN PLAYING

During the summer of 2015, Healthy Promotions staff organized the first annual Keep Austin Playing event, which was a citywide interactive play-date created to enrich, educate and empower families to cultivate healthy lifestyle changes.

The event included fun recreational activities, interactive games, and informational booths relating to community-wide programs in health, wellness and play. The Austin Parks Foundation partnered with the Austin Aces and graciously gave tennis rackets to the children.

Over 800 summer camp participants and 450 adults and children from the general public attended. As one camper arrived he exclaimed, "This is going to be the best day ever!"

### ***Texas Parks and Wildlife CO-OP Grant Recipient***

The Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) helps fund community-based youth and family outdoor-oriented programs such as camping, backpacking, kayaking and service projects. The Department was awarded the CO-OP grant to develop leaders in natural resources, improve diversity in careers, and participation in the outdoors. Activities include kayaking, archery, fishing, nature photography and more.



## OUTSIDE THE BOX

The partnership between the Montopolis Recreation Center and Outside the Box Dropout Prevention program began in April of 2014. Since then, the program has conducted over 2,100 tutoring hours.

Outside the Box has a strong community vision and follows a service learning model with students from the University of Texas at Austin providing tutoring services to underserved youth. Last year, over 100 tutors assisted over 125 students from surrounding schools. Tutors are not only helping with homework, reading, and mathematics, they also serve as positive role models to the children they mentor.

*My daughter has improved her grades in school dramatically. Spanish speaking tutors also make it easier to communicate about her progress.*

—Rocio Lara, Outside the Box Parent



### ***Texas Parks and Wildlife Urban Outdoor Recreation Grant Recipient***

More than \$7 million in grant funds was approved in August of 2015 for Texas local parks. The department will receive an urban outdoor recreation grant of \$849,518 to support the development of Waterloo Park. One of 25 park recipients, funds will be used to improve sidewalks, trails, and bridges, as well as a playscape, garden, wetland terrace, headwater seep, new lighting, site furnishings, and signage.

## CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

Creative placemaking was embraced by the Museums and Cultural Programs Division. This approach to programming allowed staff to create new partnerships and promote multicultural events and exhibitions. The *Planet Music* series took performance to a new height as it celebrated diversity within Austin's music scene.

The O. Henry and Susanna Dickinson Museums increased visitorship by 1600, engaging people in interactive exhibits during SXSW, including RadioLab's *Detour*, poet Grant Cross's *Haiku in Demand*, Pan Studio's *Hello Lamp Post*, and Jennifer Chennoweth's *Hedonistic Map of Austin*.

The Ney Museum has been actively collaborating with Big Medium, Fusebox, The Dionysium, and Texas Folklife; and welcomed its first Writer in Residence—Mary Helen Specht—an Austin novelist.



## JUNETEENTH

In addition to the permanent collection commemorating Juneteenth at the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, the 2015 celebration unveiled the Juneteenth Memorial Monument and five large-scaled bronze sculptures on loan from the State of Texas.

Originally commissioned by the State's Legislative Black Caucus, the monument tells the story of the history of slavery in the U.S. and the triumph of the Emancipation Proclamation that was brought to Texas in 1865. The installation provides an unforgettable journey through history.

## Austin Critics Table—2015 Awards

**Austin Arts Hall of Fame:** Fidencio Duran; Drawing Instructor for Museums and Cultural Programs Division  
**Group Gallery Exhibition:** "Gently Fried" Los Outsiders; Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center  
**David Mark Cohen New Play Award:** "Cenicenta" Rupert Reyes and Caroline Reck; Resident Theatrical Artist for Brush Square Museums



*Planet Music  
Dougherty Arts Center*



## URBAN FORESTRY

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department's Urban Forestry team planted 782 trees on parkland with a 95% survival rate, using 98% reclaimed water during the process. More than 9,000 seedling trees were planted in riparian areas of parkland, and approximately 2,000 trees were pruned to help maintain our greenbelts, trails, parkland, and preserves.

Urban Forestry staff coordinated 84 volunteer events working with local nonprofits during 2014-15 to assist with the planting and care of park trees.

*And the more we watched and listened, the more powerfully we felt that immense pecan tree as a living creature, something with its own vitality and drive.*

—Robert Faires, Austin Chronicle

## TRESS OF GOVALLE

In the spring of 2015, Urban Forestry employees worked with Forklift Danceworks choreographers, Allison Orr and Krissie Marty, in collaboration with East Austin residents to create the live performance, *The Trees of Govalle*. The event premiered at Fusebox Festival and was a part of the thinkEAST Living Charrette Project. Featuring live music directed by Graham Reynolds and production design by Stephen Pruitt, more than 2,000 people attended the experimental dance piece.

This incredible outreach experience provided an opportunity for staff to work with several nonprofits, state organizations, and community groups to provide educational programming during the event. Additionally, the performance was screened for the public at the Mexican American Cultural Center in the summer of 2015, along with a group discussion about the impact of this event.

*The Trees of Govalle* Photographer: Leon Alesi



## PARK RANGERS

City of Austin Park Rangers provide education, safety, and security to the public in our parks and recreational facilities. Our park rangers conducted nearly 200 educational programs last year to protect and foster stewardship of the natural world. Classes covered demonstrations in archery, caving, fishing, hiking, kayaking, rock climbing, and snorkeling, as well as wildlife presentations.

Other outreach efforts include the Ranger Cadet program at Aikens High School. Overall requests for education services soared to 17,412 in 2014-15, more than an 1100% increase when compared to only 1,441 requests in 2013-14.



### **Arbor Day Foundation—Tree City USA Award**

Since 1976, the Tree City USA program has been helping to make cities and towns across America green. Providing the framework to manage and expand their public trees, Austin has been a part of this nationwide movement for 23 years.

## KEEP AUSTIN WILD

Austin was named America's best city for wildlife by the National Wildlife Federation and exceeded the re-certification points needed to maintain our status as a Certified Community Wildlife Habitat. Last year, we added five new community gardens by partnering with the Public Works Department, Watershed Protection Department, St. David's Foundation and the Downtown Austin Community Court. Our Sustainable Urban Agriculture staff also partnered with Austin Resource Recovery and the Office of Sustainability to host Austin's first Soil Kitchen event that gave Austin gardeners the opportunity to test samples of soil for free.

### **National Wildlife Federation—Garden for Wildlife**

#### **Mayor's Monarch Pledge**

Mayor Steve Adler was the first to accept the National Wildlife Federation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge, committing to take 16 specific actions to help the Monarch and other pollinators. The national campaign will work with mayors and local governments to help save the declining Monarch butterfly.



# PARTNERING FOR A PLAYFUL FUTURE

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*We are committed to partnering with organizations that support the growth of healthy people, programs, and places to collectively improve the overall quality of life in Austin.*



## WALLER CREEK CONSERVANCY

The Waller Creek Conservancy was established in 2010 with the mission of stewardship, advocating for preservation and revitalization of Waller Creek. Within a year, the Conservancy partnered with the City of Austin to support the redevelopment of the Waller Creek District and launched an international design competition. In late 2012, City Council approves the selected design team, and the Waller Creek District received \$13 million in funding from Austin's 2012 bond election. The Conservancy continued to spark interest and raise awareness in 2015. For example, Creek Show—a temporary art installation—highlighted the importance of the creek's ability to connect and transform Austin's social, cultural and ecological future.

## BARTON SPRINGS CONSERVANCY

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department partnered with the Barton Springs Conservancy to work together on improvements to the Barton Springs Bathhouse and surrounding areas. The Conservancy's mission is to raise public and private funds to benefit Barton Springs and conservation efforts. Improvements will focus on the functional needs of the bathhouse building and grounds, the visitor arrival and entry experience, and will address the infrastructure requirements of this historic but aging facility. Launched in late 2015, the partnership announcement included presentations by current and former Mayors, City Council Members, and other key stakeholders.

## REPUBLIC SQUARE PARK

The Department has maintained a long-standing partnership with the Austin Parks Foundation for improvement projects at Republic Square Park, including the Auction Oaks restoration, elevated deck, and café furniture. Phase II renovations will create a more resilient urban park including central lawn, terraces, pathways, and a proposed food concession kiosk.

In addition to partnering with the Austin Parks Foundation, the Downtown Austin Alliance is also fundraising to supplement the 2012 bond funds for downtown squares. The celebrated Republic Square Master Plan was recognized by the Texas Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects with an Honor Award for Design of Public Projects. This project is becoming a model for future multiphase partnership projects.

## OLD BAKERY & EMPORIUM POCKET PARK

The Old Bakery and Emporium is a historic downtown landmark in Austin that operates as a consignment shop, visitor information center, and art gallery. Adjacent to the building is a pocket park that underwent a transformation with the help of the Austin Parks Foundation and Downtown Austin Alliance. The improvements have added vitality to the Congress Avenue experience. Austinites and visitors can enjoy this new urban courtyard's contemporary aesthetic that includes café furniture, a food truck vendor, and improved landscape design. "With limited funding and extensive needs all over Austin, partnerships such as this are becoming more and more important," said Colin Wallis, Executive Director of the Austin Parks Foundation.

## CEMETERY MASTER PLAN

Adopted in September of 2015, the Cemetery Master Plan "details a rehabilitative approach to historic cemeteries: protecting their character through repair of gravestones, relics, and plant life, expanding visitor services, and developing interpretive programming that, in effect, returns cemeteries to their origins as public parks," as stated by Anna Clark in her Next City article *Designing for the Dead: The Perfect City Cemetery*.

Extensive community engagement and outreach with families of loved ones long departed helped staff better understand the importance of the cemetery as a sacred landscape. Restoring Austin's five municipal cemeteries and creating historical connections through programming will create positive cultural benefits for the living.





## DOVE SPRINGS DISTRICT PARK PLAYScape

Originally built in the 1990s, the Dove Springs District Park playscape had aged beyond current standards and was identified for replacement in 2011. The Austin Parks and Recreation Department and the Austin Parks Foundation formed a pilot partnership to commission an innovative design for a new play area with nature pathways.

This focused effort resulted in a generous grant of \$250,000 awarded by St. David's to the Austin Parks Foundation, which included research efforts awarded from the National Wildlife Federation. The innovative design is a custom-made playscape area that will help reinvigorate the community and encourage active play at the park.



## PEASE PARK MASTER PLAN

The Pease Park Master Plan was a recipient of the American Planning Association—Texas Chapter's 2015 Project Planning Award. Adopted by City Council in October of 2014, the Master Plan illustrates a long-term vision for the park's development of recreational amenities and ecological restoration.

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department appreciates the contributions of the Pease Park Conservancy as well as the community members who participated in the development of the master plan. With a focus on preserving the naturalistic feel of the park, opportunities were identified for improving gateways, restoring the historic Tudor Cottage restroom building, and enhancing the playscape area. Additionally, the Master Plan calls for extra bridge crossings over the creek and an improved and enhanced trail system.

The Department looks forward to entering the next phase of its partnership with the Pease Park Conservancy.

### **Texas Recreation & Park Society—*Lone Star Legacy Parks***

#### ***Pease Park***

A Lone Star Legacy Park must meet strict criteria including at least 50 years of history, a distinctive design, and association with events specific to the local community. Pease Park was selected as a 2015 Lone Star Legacy Park because it is a treasured open space for all Austinites to enjoy, connecting the city and its neighborhoods.

# Parks and Recreation Department

Sara L. Hensley, CPRP, Director

Cora D. Wright, Assistant Director

Kimberly A. McNeeley, CPRP, Assistant Director

Marty Stump, Assistant Director

## Parks and Recreation Board

Jane Rivera, Chair

Richard DePalma, Vice Chair

Alison Alter, Board Member

Michael Casias, Board Member

Rick Cofer, Board Member

Tom Donovan, Board Member

Alesha Larkins, Board Member

Francoise Luca, Board Member

Alex Schmitz, Board Member

Mark Vane, Board Member

Pat Wimberly, Board Member

Austin Parks & Recreation Department

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The City of Austin is proud to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.  
If you require assistance for participation in our programs or use of our facilities, please call (512) 974-6700.