



Summary Report of Community Meeting & Survey #2

August 22, 2023

Community Engagement - Community Meeting #2

Austin Parks Foundation is partnering with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department and the community to design a Concept Plan for Grand Meadow Neighborhood Park. An important priority is to gather community feedback and public input to shape the vision planning process. In order to reach as many community members as possible, APF, PARD, and Friends of Grand Meadow took the following steps:

- **Signage:** 4 signs with details on the upcoming Community Meeting #2 and QR code to access the COA Grand Meadow webpage (in both English and Spanish) were placed around the park, near bus stops, and facing streets and sidewalks where they would be the most visible.
- **Email:** An email including details of the upcoming Community Meeting #2 was sent to those who had signed up for email communication on the COA Grand Meadow webpage or opted in to receive emails in Community Survey #1. Emails were also sent to the following groups: Blazier, Palm, and Perez Elementary Parent Support and PTA's; local HOA's; and Vanessa Fuentes (District 2 Council Member).
- **Flyers:** With the help of Friends of Grand Meadow, 240 flyers (in both English and Spanish) were distributed at APF's Movie in the Park at Dove Springs Park, canvassed on streets in the surrounding neighborhood, and given to following local businesses: Star Market, Texaco, Fresh Donuts, and Goodnight Ranch Townhomes. *Example flyers below:*



Austin Parks Foundation, the City of Austin's Parks & Recreation Department and Friends of Grand Meadow Park are holding the second public input meeting for the future Concept Plan.

Preliminary park concepts will be shared, and the public can weigh in on park amenities that they would like to see.

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

COMMUNITY MEETING #2

Saturday, May 20 | 10:00-11:30am

at Grand Meadow Neighborhood Park

coffee and snacks provided

For more information, visit us:



austintexas.gov/GrandMeadowPark



Austin Parks Foundation (APF, por sus siglas en inglés), el Departamento de Parques y Recreación de la Ciudad de Austin (PARD, por sus siglas en inglés), y los amigos del Parque Grand Meadow llevarán a cabo la segunda Reunión Comunitaria para el futuro Plan Conceptual.

Durante la reunión se compartirán los conceptos preliminares para el parque, y el público podrá expresar su opinión acerca de las amenidades que le gustaría que se incluyeran en el plan. ¡Acompáñenos y ayúdenos a darle forma al futuro de esta joya de nuestra comunidad!

REUNIÓN COMUNITARIA #2

Sábado 20 de mayo | 10:00 a 11:30 a.m.

en el Parque del Vecindario Grand Meadow

Se servirá comida y café

Para más información, visite:



austintexas.gov/GrandMeadowPark





- **Nextdoor Post:** PARD provided a post on neighborhood application “Nextdoor” in an effort to notify residents of the community meeting.

Community Meeting #2

The second community meeting was held in-person at Grand Meadow Park on Saturday, May 20th from 10-11:30am. Austin Parks Foundation provided food, coffee, and other beverages for the attending community members. Friends of Grand Meadow also provided a table with additional beverages, free seeds, and a coloring table for children. The first 20 people to arrive also received a grow kit provided by Fruitful Commons.



Three presentation boards with information on the results from Survey #1 and two proposed layout plans for the park were displayed throughout the duration of the gathering. QR codes were also provided for community members who wanted to access the official City of Austin Grand Meadow webpage or take the survey in person.

Spanish translation services were also provided after the initial presentation.



Concept Presentation

Austin Parks Foundation, with the support of City of Austin's Parks and Recreation Department, began the meeting by presenting an overview of APF's Overall Park Planning process, the work done on Grand Meadow to-date, and the next steps for the project.

The presentation also included a recap of the results from Community Survey #1. These survey results include crucial insights into the surrounding community and ultimately influenced the designs of the two concepts that were presented during Community Meeting #2. Full survey results were posted on the official COA Grand Meadow webpage. See below for the top survey highlights that were displayed at Community Meeting #2:

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What is APF's Overall Park Planning Process?
Process guides Adopt-A-Park groups through visioning and creating an adopted Park Concept Plan

Process:

- Year-long process
- Form Park Design Committee
- Conduct Site Inventory and Analysis
- Community Outreach including three public meetings
- Primary Outcome: Adopted Park Concept Plan by City of Austin

Awarded:

- Once a year to neighborhood, school or pocket parks only
- Spring Application date
- Grand Meadow Neighborhood Park is the 2022-2023 recipient

Who is involved?

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

What is a neighborhood park?

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

What is the project timeline?

- March 7, 2023 - Community Meeting #1
Input on Park Amenities, open online survey
- May 2023 - Community Meeting #2
On-site meeting for preliminary layout options for public comment / input on phasing and layout, open online survey
- July 2023 - Community Meeting #3
Final draft plan for comment
- Early Fall - COA PARD for official review and adoption

scan for more project info:

WHAT WE HEARD COMMUNITY SURVEY #1

Where do you live in relation to the park?
55% of respondents live within three blocks of Grand Meadow Park.

Does your household have children? If so, how old?
Over 50% of respondents have children in their household.

Please describe where you currently live?
Over 90% of respondents own homes nearby.

How do you get to the park?
30% of respondents drive to the park, the remaining 70% walk, bike, or take public transit.

Which value is most important to you for the future park?
Safety, access to nature, and access to recreational activities were all top priorities.

What is the primary reason you think you will use Grand Meadow Park in the future?
Responses were split fairly evenly between a place to bring children or dogs, a place to exercise, connect with nature, and gather with family & community.

Which park elements would you most like to see included in the park?
The most popular park elements included a loop trail, additional shade, and wildflower preservation. A food forest and community garden were also popular responses.

Following this project overview, APF explained the two concepts also on display at the meeting. The design of these concepts were intentionally very different in terms of feel and programming in order to elicit clear feedback from the community.

GRAND MEADOW NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
MAY 20, 2023



Members of the community were then encouraged to take a closer look at both concepts. Members of APF and PARD were present to answer any questions. Attendees were also encouraged to fill out the online survey. See below for more information on Survey #2.

Preliminary Layout Plan #1

This layout is intentionally informal and low-maintenance, showcasing the park's existing natural resources by preserving large swaths of wildflowers. A 1/3 mile decomposed granite loop trail invites visitors to meander through the wildflower meadows while discovering strategically placed pockets of exercise equipment, picnic areas, community art installations, and educational signage.

The park's central feature is a large picnic pavilion, serving as a community hub that connects the community garden, good forest, and nature play area, bringing people of all ages together. Additionally the park features a partially-fenced, informal play lawn designed to provide children with a safe and stimulating environment that fosters exploration and creativity.

PRELIMINARY LAYOUT PLAN #1

This layout is intentionally informal and low-maintenance, showcasing the park's existing natural resources by preserving large swaths of wildflowers. A 1/3 mile decomposed granite loop trail invites visitors to meander through the wildflower meadows while discovering strategically placed pockets of exercise equipment, picnic areas, and community art installations, and educational signage.

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FEATURES

 A PAVILION including lighting, picnic tables, teaching area	 B COMMUNITY GARDEN including individual and community plots, water access, tool storage	 C FOOD FOREST managed by community garden group, variety of edible plants
 D WILDFLOWER MEADOW preserve and enhance large swaths of existing meadow	 E 1/3 MILE LOOP TRAIL 5' wide, decomposed granite	 F NATURAL PLAY FIELD cleared area for exploratory play, including logs and rocks
 G NATURE PLAY including natural play elements such as logs, berms and boulders	 H COMMUNITY ART TBD	 I EXERCISE EQUIPMENT to match playground equipment
 J PICNIC AREAS including picnic tables, trash and recycling, grills	 K EXISTING STREET PARKING along Alum Rock Dr. and in adjacent neighborhood	 L BEE HIVES managed on-site, must meet all PARD Standards for safety





Preliminary Layout Plan #2

This layout maximizes Grand Meadow Park's nearly 10-acres to create a lively hub for recreational activity. A ½ mile loop encircles the park by connecting the existing sidewalks along Thaxton Rd., Panadero Dr., and Alum Rock Dr..

A central path within the park connects various zones of activity. One side of the park clusters the food forest and community garden, along with a small parking lot and pavilion. Another area groups a traditional playground, basketball, and pickleball courts, exercise equipment, picnic pavilion, and a large play field. A fenced dog park is set apart from the other activities to give furry friends a place to play. The park is also fenced around the perimeter to protect visitors from nearby traffic.

Existing wildflowers are strategically located throughout the park, providing a beautiful natural backdrop for all activities while also serving as a buffer between the park and nearby roads.

PRELIMINARY LAYOUT PLAN #2

This layout maximizes Grand Meadow Park's nearly 10-acres to create a lively hub for recreational activity. A 1/2 mile loop encircles the park by connecting the existing sidewalks along Thaxton Rd, Panadero Dr., and Alum Rock Dr..

A central path within the park connects various zones of activity. One side of the park clusters the food forest and community garden, along with a small parking lot and pavilion. Another area groups a traditional playground, basketball and pickleball courts, exercise equipment, picnic pavilion, and a large play field. A fenced dog park is set apart from the other activities to give furry friends a safe place to play. The park is also fenced around the perimeter to protect visitors from nearby traffic.

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FEATURES

 A PAVILION including lighting, picnic tables, teaching area	 B COMMUNITY GARDEN including individual and community plots, water access, tool storage	 C FOOD FOREST managed by community garden group, variety of edible plants
 D WILDFLOWER MEADOW preserve and enhance pockets of existing meadow	 E CONCRETE TRAIL 5' wide, concrete	 F PLAY FIELD traditional play field for sports and free play, well maintained
 G TRADITIONAL PLAY typical play equipment for all ages	 H EXERCISE EQUIPMENT to match play equipment	 I PICKLEBALL COURTS (2) fenced courts, including lighting
 J BASKETBALL COURT including lighting	 K PARKING LOT for approximately 20 cars	 L DOG PARK fully fenced, with waste stations, small dog area, water access



GRAND MEADOW NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
Preliminary Layout Plan #2
MAY 20, 2023



Community Engagement - Survey #2

Instructions on how to access the survey were provided in-person at Community Meeting #2. QR codes were also provided in-person for those who wished to take the survey while at the meeting.



The survey was also open to the public on the COA webpage from May 20 - June 26. In order to gather as much feedback as possible from community members, APF, PARD, and Friends of Grand Meadow took the following steps:

- **Signage:** 4 signs including a QR code to access Survey #2 and the COA Grand Meadow webpage (in both English and Spanish) were placed around the park, near bus stops, and facing streets and sidewalks where they would be the most visible.
- **Email :** For Community Survey #2, APF sent an email with information on how to take Survey #2 to those who had signed up for email communication on the COA Grand Meadow webpage or opted in to receive emails in Community Survey #1 a week prior to the 06/26/23 deadline. Email reminders were also sent to local HOA's, School PTA's, Neighborhood Associations, and Vanessa Fuentes (District 2 Council Member).
- **Flyers:** With the help of Friends of Grand Meadow, 200 flyers with instructions on how to access Survey #2 (in both English and Spanish) were distributed throughout the community. 100 of these flyers were distributed to local businesses including: Quambala Salon, Almas Bakery, Texaco, and Star Market. 100 more flyers were posted on community mailboxes, and canvassed door to door.
- **Newsletter:** Vanessa Fuentes added a reminder and instructions to take the survey in her newsletter, which gained a lot of engagement.
- **Nextdoor Post:** PARD provided a post on neighborhood application "Nextdoor" in an effort to notify residents of the survey.

Survey Results

A total of 156 responses were received.

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

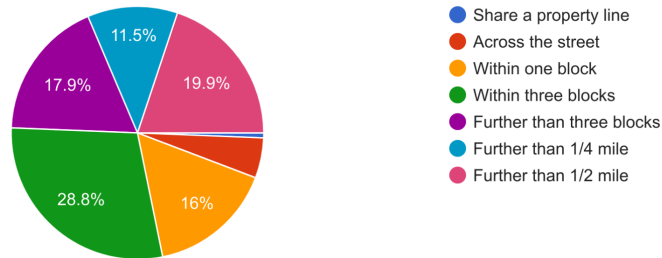
- Approximately 55% of participants have children between the ages of 0-18 living in their households.
- 38% of respondents were between the ages of 35-44 and 34% were between the ages of 25-34.
- 96% of respondents speak in English in their homes. 19% of respondents speak Spanish in their homes.
- Over 89% of survey respondents own a house or duplex.



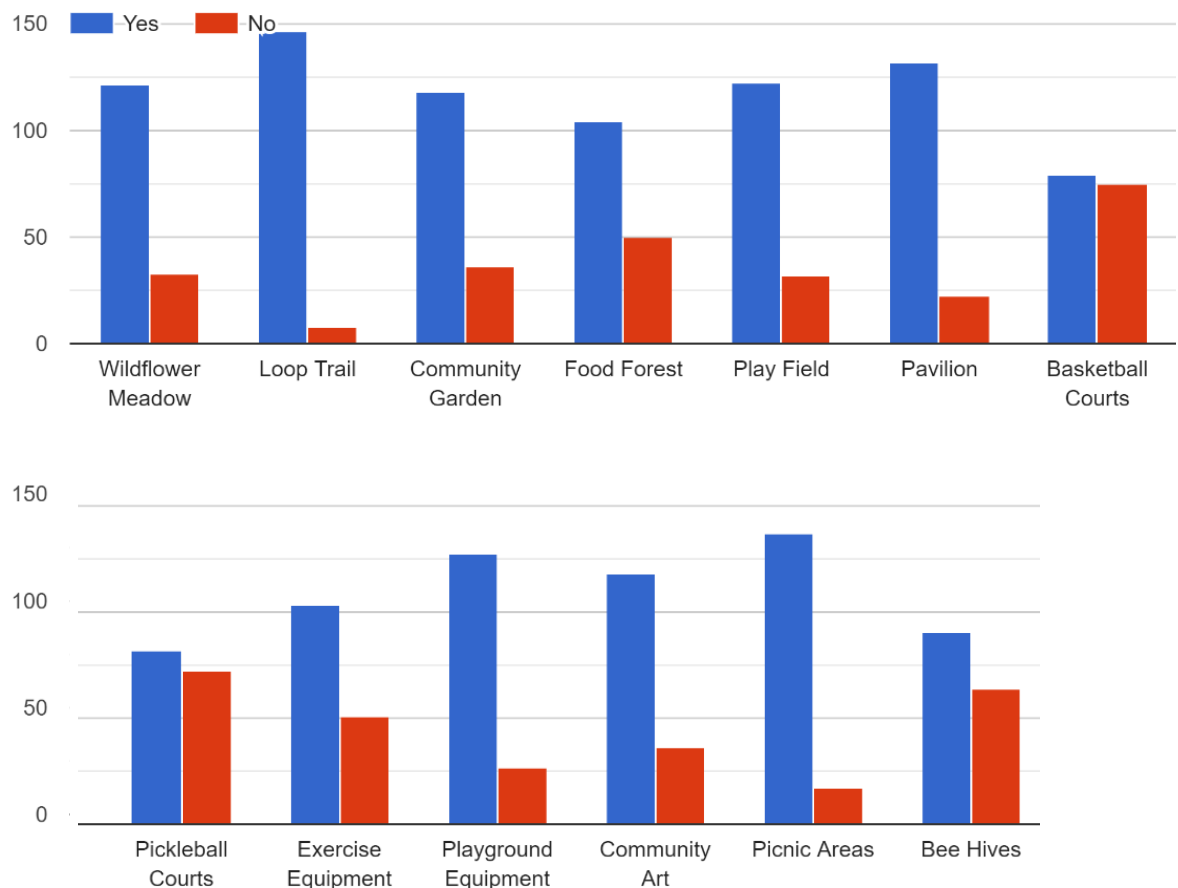
Samples of the content are below:

Where do you live in relation to the park?

156 responses



Another goal of the survey was to gather content on what features were most desired for Grand Meadow Park. See below for an example of this content as well as the key takeaways:



Key Takeaways:

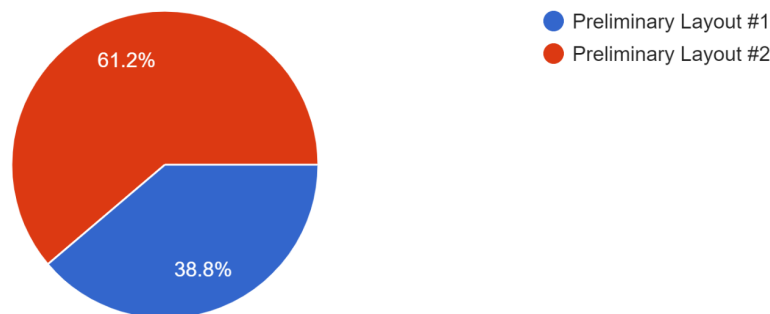


- Wildflower meadow(s), a loop trail, play field, pavilion, and playground equipment all had overwhelming support from respondents and will be included in the next iteration of the layout plan.
- The community garden and food forest were highly requested features by the Friends of Grand Meadow group and were also popular among survey respondents. These will be included in the next iteration of the layout plan.
- Exercise equipment, and community art were all popular programming options and will be included in the next iteration of the layout plan. The next community meeting will explore how these elements should be prioritized as funding becomes available.
- The majority of respondents also wished to see basketball courts, pickleball courts, and beehives, but these options were less popular. The next community meeting will likely explore if these program elements should be included in the final layout plan.

Survey respondents were also asked to choose which of the two concepts they prefer. The majority of respondents preferred Preliminary Layout #2. Many responses mentioned a preference for Preliminary Layout #2 because it included a variety of programming opportunities for the larger community. Many responses also mentioned a desire for a combination of both concepts- specifically for the natural elements and loop trail from Preliminary Layout #1 to be combined with the programming elements (dog park, sports courts, etc.) from Preliminary Layout #2.

Which of these concepts do you prefer?

152 responses



Finally, the survey asked several questions on specific programming elements including:

- Fenced-in dog park
- Loop trail
- Surface parking lot
- Play field
- Playground equipment
- Lighting



These survey results provided crucial insight into community priorities, hopes, and concerns for the park and will ultimately determine the design for the next iteration of the plan. The next layout plan will combine the most requested elements from Preliminary Layout Plan #1 and #2, and will give the community a final chance to comment on the design for Grand Meadow Park, including which features should be prioritized as funding becomes available.

Full survey results can be found at <https://www.austintexas.gov/GrandMeadowPark>