Question Details

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<th>#</th>
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<th>Asker Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Will this session be recorded? I’d like to watch it later</td>
<td>Leslie Wolke</td>
<td>Hi Leslie, yes, this will be recorded.</td>
<td>102</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>As the meeting proceeds and attendees join in, will you please clue us in as to how many people are watching?</td>
<td>Karen Kreps</td>
<td>Currently, there are 80 participants. We’ll keep you posted. 14 on Facebook live, 84 now on Zoom 92 on zoom, 15 on FB live. The slide was just a note that the Zilker Café Conditional Use Permit is not attached to this project. Any comments or questions on this subject will not be addressed during the meeting. If you would like to learn more, you can visit <a href="http://www.austintexas.gov/department/pard-conditional-use-permit-applications">www.austintexas.gov/department/pard-conditional-use-permit-applications</a></td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Can you please post the information about the conditional use permit here? I wasn't able to see that slide unfortunately. Thank you.</td>
<td>Christy Muse</td>
<td>The slide was just a note that the Zilker Café Conditional Use Permit is not attached to this project. Any comments or questions on this subject will not be addressed during the meeting. If you would like to learn more, you can visit <a href="http://www.austintexas.gov/department/pard-conditional-use-permit-applications">www.austintexas.gov/department/pard-conditional-use-permit-applications</a></td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>I had trouble participating in the survey at the last meeting on here. Is it primarily for those on FB Live?</td>
<td>Stephanie Hoffman</td>
<td>This survey is for everyone watching live. If you have problems accessing Mentimeter, feel free to let us know in the chat and we can try to walk you through it. We have conducted in person pop-up events at various parks around town, including at Zilker Park and specifically Blues on the Green &amp; Barton Springs Pool. We plan to continue these efforts to capture a diversity of input. Please visit the project website for more information. <a href="http://www.austintexas.gov/ZilkerVision">http://www.austintexas.gov/ZilkerVision</a></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Can y'all improve the diversity of community engagement by conducting in-person survey meetings with park attendees at Barton Creek, Great Lawn, Blues on the Green events, and the like?</td>
<td>Mike C</td>
<td>Thanks Rich. Yes, the meeting presentation, recording, and survey will all be available on the project website following tonight's meeting. The slides are already available on the project webpage if you want to open them on your screen to follow along. The Code for Mentimeter is '5169 1171' and you can see the number at the top of the slide</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Please share the mental number again menti.com</td>
<td>Clark Hancock</td>
<td>5169 1171</td>
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<td>5169 1171</td>
<td>Richard DePalma</td>
<td>Thanks for sharing.</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Is this slide deck also available after the meetings?</td>
<td>Karen Kreps</td>
<td>Yes, the meeting presentation, recording, and survey will all be available on the project website following tonight's meeting. The slides are already available on the project webpage if you want to open them on your screen to follow along. The Code for Mentimeter is '5169 1171' and you can see the number at the top of the slide</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Can you please type the code again for the survey in the chat?</td>
<td>Yolanda Shaw</td>
<td>Thanks for sharing.</td>
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<td><a href="https://austintexas.gov/department/pard-conditional-use-permit-applications">https://austintexas.gov/department/pard-conditional-use-permit-applications</a></td>
<td>Karen Kreps</td>
<td>Thanks for sharing.</td>
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Don't forget that FBSP conducts volunteer pool cleaning activities that are an important education and service program deserving support.

11 why are the boats/sups not considered

Dorothy Lopez

Barnett

Roy Waley

Mike C

Thank you for the reminder, Mike!

Hi Dorothy, Boat and Sup Rentals are included in the visitation numbers.

Thanks for your comment.

Hi Mark, we look at all types of visitors - from concessions to picnic areas to pool to trail users to special events.

Hi Sarah, yes, it includes all special events. the special events (kite fest, ACL, Blues, relays, hillside theatre and trail of lights are 987,500

Some other education programming opportunities include:

• Creating a Mobile Education Bus and Maintenance Barn Education Area.

• Creating a park docent program to “humanize” the park experience with one or two kiosks could be located in high traffic areas where docents could interact with visitors by answering questions, displaying updateable information, selling pool-related products, and providing a mini visitor information center function.

And also creating outreach programs to foster a welcoming, safe, inclusive, and accessible environment for all members of our City across the full range of diverse racial and economic backgrounds.

450,000 for ACL, 425,000 for Trail of Lights, 75,000 for Hillside Theatre

Hi Clark, Overton Park in Memphis and Brackenridge Park in San Antonio have both, especially.

Great comment Nick. This is something we are looking into as part of this planning process.

Hi Felicity, generally Austin’s parks are funded better than San Antonio, Houston and Memphis, where Brackenridge, Memorial and
Charlie McCabe; are they major attractions? Can you be specific?  

Clark Hancock  

Why is the subtitle of the project “more park less parking”?  Few people have the ability to walk or bike to the park. As the city grows we need more parking, of less. We should want residents and visitors to be able to enjoy the park. It should not make it exclusive for nearby neighborhoods and for young people on bikes and scooters.  

Jim Kochanski  

Don’t the pool revenues go to the general fund, and not to Zilker?  

Mike C  

That special event money from ACL Fest doesn’t include the $4/5 Million $ that goes tru APF????  

Ralph Webster  

Do any of the current Zilker Fees include an equity component?  

Felicity Maxwell  

Hi, compared to other similar parks you looked at, do they also rely on 25%+ coming from special events to account for their total parks budget?  

Billy Weaver  

Need to know more about the Vision Plan. It seems to be okay, but.. waiting for details of your recommendaiton  

Ingrid Weigand  

Yes! Thank you for the answer - I seem to remember that such fees structures were already in place in parts of the park.  

Felicity Maxwell  

Charlie, those do not seem to be of the same caliber as Barton Springs and the edge of the Balconnes escarpment  

Clark Hancock  

Do these other “benchmark” parks suggest any model for working with public-private partnership models that could meet the City Council’s directive to supplement city funding and programming sources?  

Mike C  

Overton has a historic forested area, a historic bandshell, a zoo and an art museum, among others. Brackenridge has the sunken gardens, the japanese tea garden, and zoo and botanical gardens, for example.  

Hi Jim, that is what Save our Springs, a nonprofit focused on Barton Springs and water sources is using as their tagline. Mike, yes, all revenues go to the general fund which then funds the parks dept. The parks dept brings in about $12 M but gets about 103 Hi Ralph, no this is specifically around the city budget and direct payments to the city. Hi Felicity, do you mean that fees are discounted for people in need? If so, programs run by the botanical gardens and the austin nature and science center focus on that. If Hi Billy, we only know funding and spending overall for those city park systems. That said, all funds collected in parks, not just Zilker, go into the general fund - over $5 M out of $12 M in general fund income for the parks dept overall. The bulk of the city park system is funded through general fund allocations by the Thanks for your answer, Ingrid. We hope you can stay involved and sign up for email updates on our project website. 

Thanks, Felicity. Understand your perspective, Clark. We looked at similar sized parks, with similar amenities and features, in similar climates and with nonprofits working in those parks. We know Barton Springs and creek are very unique. Hi Mike, yes, all of them have nonprofit partners of various sizes and capabilities. Some have a combination of public and nonprofit funders, Herman and Memorial in Houston, especially. Still, for most parks in the US, they
The result of the community meeting #1 survey shows that parking/traffic/mobility is currently the largest barrier to enjoyment of Zilker park. How can we look at large events, where we often see the lowest amount of vehicular travel, as inspiration for better transportation within Zilker? Clifford Hoelscher live answered

it would be really great to develop a trolly/train that circles all day/night along barton springs road/riverside to get people to the park and then a smaller train that circles the park all day, getting people to the different areas. Great comment Nick. A park circulator would help get folks to & from the park. We will be looking at this during the planning phase. Garret Nick

Please explore VP recommendation for event fundraising opportunities for non-profit park partners working to support Zilker Park. Mike C live answered

Also, please explore requirement that concessions and non-profits operating in Zilker Park should commit to keeping substantial/meaningful portion of the funds raised in Zilker Park and/or supporting Zilker Park non-profits. This would leverage increasing park attendance as a revenue and education opportunity by requiring that park concessions use a revenue model to direct proceeds to benefit pool, park, and/or watershed protection land acquisition and/or by including education components about environment issues at park. Mike C live answered

Let me ask my question a different way: Does Austin rely on more on special events to maintain or improve their parks than other similar park systems you looked at? Billy Weaver live answered

Based on the survey, it seems like the majority of this audience is White. I’m wondering what the team is doing to engage residents of color in these discussions moving forward? Morgan Franklin live answered

In your story board, how are you going to avoid the trap that it is the end all and be all and that there are other stories and complexities that are not covered but deserve preservation? Clark Hancock live answered
will you please provide a full inventory of the agreements allowing larger private events? blues on green, trail 9f lights, etc  William Bunch

What other methods are you using to engage residents of color and any other demographic that is not included (students, differently abled, seniors, etc.)? Zoom meeting like this are not accessible to everyone. Chanel Davis

How many of the members of the Vision team have visited Zilker. What areas did you visit if yes? Roy Waley
Do you have any plans to go to local schools to get student inputs since they are the future of the park? Mark Weiler

can we stop cutting native trees while the poan process goes forward? William Bunch

How are you going to make distinctions in your multi-vairable questions? Such as the need for interpretive materials in your preferred language - two variables interpretive materials and language. Clark Hancock

Is consideration of other city parks part of the Zilker Vision...for example...increasing the events that take place at other parks to lessen the impact on zilker? Erik Ruben

Why not plans with Cap Metro for a regular route during the summer at the very least. With a stop at the Park at Lou Neff Rd? Roy Waley

I want fewer events that close the park to the public—No such events! Karen Kreps

As part of this overall Vision process would it be possible to have a specific session with Cap Metro & other transportation partners regarding mobility upgrades for the park? Felicity Maxwell

will yall please post now any significant facility changes requested by anyone but especially by zilker concessions, eg ZBG, ACL, BS conservancy, et al? Recommend more use of the hillside theater for more concerts and food and beer trucks to produce revenue for Zilker William Bunch

Hi Bill, you can go through the city portal and submit a Public Information Request to receive this info.
Hello Chanel. The team had pop-up events on each council district, Barton Sparings Pool, and Blues on the Green Events. We are going to have same in person pop-ups coming up to reach out to more diverse communities.
You can check more detailed information on project website.
Hi Roy, the PARD Planning team has visited all areas of the park. Members of the consultant team and some of the sub consultants have visited many of the areas also. Thanks.
We are in collaboration with AISD, UT, and Huston-Tillotson. We are always looking to make connections with community members.
Hello William. We are looking closely Zilker park's environmental aspect and increasing and improving tree canopy is def one of the goals.
We are trying to ask some big questions to get the conversation going. As the process continues, we will be able to look more closely into the different aspects of questions such as these.

Thank you for your comment, Karen.
Hi Felicity, CapMetro is part of the Technical Advisory Group. We meet with them after every community meeting and solicit thier input. Thier input will be reflected in future

Thank you for your comment, Ralph. The Hillside Theater is an important aspect of Zilker.
Can I get an autographed football signed by PARD legends Ricardo Soliz and Gregory Montez?? Absolutley Larry! Thanks for making time to attend the mtg!

What is the sense of staff and team on creatively approaching the pedestrian and non-vehicular access modes? Really interesting approaches in Boston, to further focus on pedestrian priority along the Charles River. It would be really powerful to really lean into being truly green. Especially as it relates to our most visible green space. Becky Taylor live answered

Why wouldn't the Zilker Vision include a proposal for a light rail Transit Hub as part of the CapMetro Project Connect? Hi Baron, Project Connect is a separate planning initiative. I beleive that they are planning a station near Auditorium Shores but not Zilker. I would invite you to participate in that planning porocess to share your thoughts. Baron Wilson

I spoke with a park ranger recently who told me that there are fewer than 20 rangers servicing all of the parks within the Austin area. How can we possibly hope to keep the park maintained, and assure park rules are being followed without vastly increasing the enforcement staff on site? I say that changes are ineffective without proper enforcement, and we must first look at our ability to effectively regulate activities within the park. Clifford Hoelscher live answered

Charlie...is it reasonable for a non-profit to take over the vision and day to day operations of Zilker?? Hi Ralph, its a big job and you do have a public agency working with a group of nonprofits regularly in Zilker. We’re looking at lots of examples of closer collaboration between all of the players, especially given the long histories of volunteer and nonprofit groups working with the city in Zilker. We’ll definitely take notes and ideas from many organizations and parks. Ralph Webster

Will you all be looking at perception and stewardship of the parks during their visit and beyond depending on how people arrive at the park (driving vs. walking vs. biking, etc.)? The way in which people access the park and experience arrival / departure has a big impact on their understanding of parks; and driving is a known aggressor / stress inducer which tends to lead to negative perceptions generally. Sarah Simpson live answered

design around helping better maintain the "over loved" areas important while continuing to provide access. Deana Dossey Thanks for your comment Deana.
A treasure of Zilker are all the different kinds of people who meet each other on the great lawn on regular days. One thing in common is that the got there in their cars. Please don’t remove that! It seems like a trick to say “what else would you like to add”? Then it turns out that parking and access has to be removed to add new things, like a skate park (which is concrete). It’s just seems difficult to justify closing Austin’s biggest park for basically 25% of the year to accommodate these 2 special events, both of which also degrade the park and create a need for more maintenance.

If there is limited parking they will take the bus is there any vision that includes a more complete train system within the park to shuttle visitors from a proposed mass transit drop point to all the other areas within the park? would this be an expansion of the existing kid train or an independent system or a bunch of golf carts with trailers, etc?

Have there been studies on the Transit as opposed to Parking at the other Parks discussed earlier?

Just a comment. There must be a way to park to be able to visit Zilker for many of us. Please make parking a part of this plan. Can you share the name of your interpretive planner?

Has any progress been made on including APD in on this plan for ideas on how to increase patrols and enforcement? Any potential for having dedicated rangers? Pease Park has the “pease corps” that do a soft approach to reminding people of the rules and then escalate with a call to APD if necessary. Would most people respond to that sort of light enforcement?

Ensuring the park is accessible to all is an important goal for this project. Please drop your comments in the chat and reserve the Q&A for questions for panelists.

A variety of options for mass transit are being consider - improved bus service as discussed tonight, connecting to future light rail stations, the use of the Zilker train as a transit connector, and ideas such as circulator vehicles (particularly during peak periods), as well as micro-mobility options (scooters, etc), bikes, etc. Yes. The benchmarking includes examples of transit (such as internal circulators in park such as Forest Park in St. Louis and Balboa Park in San Diego). A variety of parking options are under consideration including ways to connect to surrounding offsite parking structures that might be utilized on nights, weekends, or special events.

We are working with Erin McClelland of MuseWork.
Thanks for answering my question. I might suggest branching out to other areas of the city. If we recognize that underrepresented demographics are not at the park now, they would not be present at the on-site events either. Perhaps there are other community events in South and East Austin that you can attend

Chanel Davis live answered
Do you have knowledge regarding the current number of bike racks within the park? I believe that we need to greatly increase the amount of bicycle parking in order to promote the use of bike access to the park.

Clifford Hoelscher
Bike facilities are part of the analysis. Bike parking might include park corral or liveries for special events not just traditional bike racks.

Jim Kochanski live answered
What will you incorporate to make all of Austin’s friends and families feel that Zilker is a good place for their friends and families?

Kenneth Thompson live answered
A variety of options for configuration of Barton Springs Road are being considered including the planned upgrades for the Barton Springs Road

Felicity Maxwell planned upgrades for the Baton Springs Road
How will the vision plan incorporate the potential planned upgrades for the Barton Springs Road Bridge?

Larry Akers live answered
Trail there be raised to the top of the wall? Are your connectivity plans being considered in the preliminary design work for replacement of the Barton Springs Road bridge over Barton Creek?

Larry Akers
We are looking at a variety of configurations of Barton Springs Road including alternatives for the bridge.

Larry Akers Thanks for your comment Larry.
Now that COTA hosts a trail of holiday lights, can we please pursue moving Trail of Lights away from Zilker and Barton Springs Road?

Elizabeth McGreevy live answered
It’s an important component of the planning process Kenneth. We’ve had pop-ups events in every council district in effort to reach everyone including people of color. We plan to

Kenneth Thompson live answered
What level of diversity is a component the planning process?
CapMetro was identified by Claire as a member of the advisory panel to THIS project. How can mass transit not be a vital part of the Zilker Park Master Plan?

Baron Wilson

We need to return to designated Parks Police with policing authority. We used to have that and it was a safer experience for everyone.

Roy Waley

A variety of transit alternatives are being examined - improved bus service, connection to light rail, internal circulators.

Thank you for your comment, Roy. Safety and issues of enforcement are major considerations that have come up during this process. Thank you for your comment Roy. We will continue to share ideas w/APD.

Can loud radios/streaming broadcast been prohibited from the whole park. It’s awful to walk a nature trail and be subject to someone else’s choice in music.

Karen Kreps

live answered

Thanks Kurt! I think this was a bigger question picture question about how the Vision plan will inform / support the planned infrastructure upgrades for Zilker. Will the Vision plan address those or are they out of scope?

Felicity Maxwell

The Vision Plan does not include a comprehensive civil engineering analysis (it is a high level plan not a detailed design plan) but through our work and conversations we have identified a number of needed and/or desired infrastructure improvements.

Can spray/aerosol sun tan lotion be banned from Barton Springs Pool and environmentally dangerous lotions banned entirely (e.g. like is done through the state of Hawaii.)?

Karen Kreps

live answered

Right you are Baron! Why are we being lead by the nose away transit? Why are we talking about more parking instead of more Park?

Roy Waley

Do you realize that when you announce ...in advance...when and where you are going to survey you are giving a small group of very vocal people the chance to "stack the deck"...

Ralph Webster

Thanks for your comment Ralph. We like to give notice so folks can plan accordingly since folks have busy schedules.

...show up un-announced

Ralph Webster

Thanks for your comment.

Larry, I'm not sure if it was mentioned, but the Sunken Garden restoration has habitat constraints on pedestrian access. At least that's my understanding.

Mike C

live answered

Can the toilet at Spyglass Dr trail head be restored?

We need many more source of potable drinking water for health reasons.

Karen Kreps

The number and locations of toilets are a consideration (though not specific design) as well as water sources. This is a high level vision plan and not a detailed design plan, so these issues will be examined diagrammatically with future funding and design to follow in the

The new maintenance structure inside an emerging woodland. And the clearcutting that cut down 30+ trees on top of the hill between the disc golf and pool.

Elizabeth McGreevy

live answered
Can we please have swim-at-your-own risk at all hours that admission is not charged (24/7)?

Karen Kreps

I believe this would be a decision for the Aquatic Division, but there may also be constraints regarding the license and protection of the salamanders. That may be outside of the

The proposed maintenance structure is located on the north end of Columbus Drive. A new telephone pole has been installed. Yet the location is a regenerating dense woodland with large canopy trees that needs to be protected.

Elizabeth McGreevy live answered

comment: restoration of Eliza Springs by the pool is well done and would like to see more natural area restoration while still allowing access, at least somewhat. Zilker being a natural place to visit with ammenities that enhance interacting with nature for visitors good.

Deana Dossey

A variety of approaches to habitat restoration - where that might occur, to what degree, are being considered in the plan options that will be considered at the October community meeting.

I was told that the hilltop clearcutting was done to serve as a staging area for redevelopment of the girl scout camp. Doesn’t make sense because the girl scout camp is surrounded by an abundance of bamboo that needs to be removed. After clearing the bamboo, that would serve as a less destructive staging area.

Elizabeth McGreevy live answered

Thank you Kurt and thank you Gregory. I do believe that the $ 7 Billion dollar Project Connect scope must include a rail component to service daily and major events taking place in Zilker Park. If the parking issue is to be comprehensively resolved then a mass transit hub to service direct access to Zilker as part of the proposed Rail system must be part of a twentieth century approach to a master plan that moves hundreds and even thousands of people to and from the "living room" that Zilker Park is. Your respnces are appreciated but need to include a coordination with CapMetro for a Zilker Park stop as a key element in the $ 7 billion dollar system that voters approved. Buses will not meet the demand currently or in the future. Thank you both.

Baron Wilson

How to get park visitors from future light rail stations (and remote parking structures) will be part of the alternatives that will be discussed at the October community meeting.

When you are looking at better access to the park as in less cars are you taking into account total park capacity and capacity for the different areas to not overcrowd the park?

Mark Weiler live answered
The open area on Stratford, between Barton Springs Rd and the bridge, has been usurped as a parking lot for ACL staging. Can it please be restored to a green area for public enjoyment. It is prime waterfront real estate.

Karen Kreps

Thanks for your comment Karen. This is something we have heard in our planning process & will be considered moving forward. A variety of options are being considered for this area which will be discussed at our October community meeting.

Elizabeth McGreevy

The hilltop clearcutting is near #6 disc golf number. More than 30 large canopy trees were recently cut down and the trunks stockpiled. I was told this was going to serve as a staging area for the girl scout camp.

Elizabeth McGreevy

Zilker park is home to unique attractions like Barton Springs Pool, the Nature and Science Center, the Botanical Garden with its dinosaur footprints, the Zilker Clubhouse etc. There are many out of town and out of the country visitors who visit Zilker every year to see these attractions.

Judith Craft

Safe access with protected sidewalks and possibly more traffic stopping crosswalks so visitors and their families can enjoy the entire park without putting themselves and their families in danger should be a top priority of this master plan.

Elizabeth McGreevy

In addition to getting input from diverse communities in the planning process through surveys and public meetings, how are you including the diversity of Austin's population on the planning committee and among those making final decisions about park design?

Carol Goodwin

When you look at transportation solutions, please look at the time it takes for transit to the park for the various areas of town. We want to make sure we are not creating a burden for minority communities and other areas of town that don't have the privilege of living within close

Richard DePalma

proximately to Zilker.

Baron Wilson

Thank you!

Good point. Equitable access is an important part of our considerations.

Baron Wilson

live answered