



AUSTIN PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR
2021



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FISCAL YEAR
2021

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Front Cover Photo: Alliance Children's Garden



WE CREATE COMMUNITY

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





Operational Challenges

Fiscal year 2021 (FY21) presented multiple challenges for the City of Austin and the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC). From the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to winter storm Uri, the people of Austin and PARC staff have demonstrated great resilience.

COVID-19 Pandemic

Early in the pandemic, PARC migrated a portion of its programs, promotions, and community engagement to online platforms and open air spaces. During this time, many people relied on spending time outdoors for their health and well-being. In the second half of FY21, PARC began reopening facilities and restoring services in accordance with the City's COVID-19 Risk Based Guidelines. In consultation with public health authorities, as the community moves down in risk level, operations continue to transition to in-person.

Winter Storm Uri

Austin experienced Winter Storm Uri February 13–17, 2021 and beyond. This unprecedented winter weather event left many without power and heat for days, affected travel and mobility, and caused significant structural damage. Parks, pools, and other public facilities were damaged and subsequent maintenance work extended through the end of FY21. PARC staff went above and beyond during the storm, not only supporting the community during the crisis, but also in its aftermath.

Executive Leadership

Parks and Recreation Department

Kimberly A. McNeeley, M.Ed, CPRP, Director

Liana Kallivoka, PhD, PE, LEED Fellow, Assistant Director

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

Suzanne Piper, DBA, Chief Administrative Officer

Board Leadership

Parks and Recreation Board

Dawn Lewis, Chair

Richard DePalma, Vice Chair

Nancy Barnard, Board Member

Laura Cottam Sajbel, Board Member

Anna Di Carlo, Board Member

Sarah Faust, Board Member

Lisa Hugman, Board Member

Patrick Moore, Board Member

Nina Rinaldi, Board Member

Kimberly Taylor, Board Member

A NOTE FROM LEADERSHIP



Kimberly McNeeley, M.Ed, CPRP

Director

Austin Parks and Recreation Department

At Austin Parks and Recreation, We Create Community within our workforce by fostering a culture of racial equity, inclusion, meaningful experiences, and opportunities.

This year saw the creation and initial implementation of our Equity Action Plan to further equity for staff and the public. Staff have been resilient with operational challenges and evolving protocols. Staff extended programs and services to the community despite the COVID-19 pandemic and diligently worked to help the community survive and recover from Winter Storm Uri.

Our work ensures that everyone has the recreational opportunities they need to stay healthy and active. We Create Community for all people.



Dawn Lewis

Chair

Austin Parks and Recreation Board

Our parks and amenities supported the community in vital ways as we faced the challenges of winter storm Uri and the pandemic. Austinites relied on these special places to play, exercise, relax and rejuvenate.

The charm and beauty of these our natural spaces help make our community healthier. As Austin continues to grow and change, we must further the success of parkland dedication to ensure that our park system expands and improves equitably across the city so that all Austinites can continue to have access to parks and greenbelts.

I want to give special thanks and recognition to PARD staff, my fellow board members, and the partners and friends across the community who support Austin Parks and Recreation.

PARD BY THE NUMBERS

PARD has been the steward of the City of Austin's public lands since 1928. As such, we protect and maintain parkland and our urban forest.

We preserve and restore natural resources and historic places, maintain trails, and offer a variety of sports, recreation, educational enrichment, arts programs, cultural opportunities and aquatic activities.

The park system grew by 33 new parks this year thanks to the Parkland Dedication Ordinance (PLD) and the 2018 Parkland Acquisition Bond funding. PLD directly improved Austin's overall park access by 2%, equal to about 20,000 residents who are now within walking distance of a park.



34
pools
11
splash pads



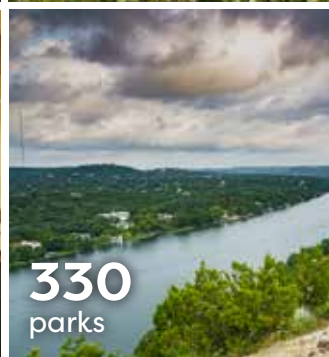
19,874
acres of
green space



253
miles of trail



11
museums and cultural centers



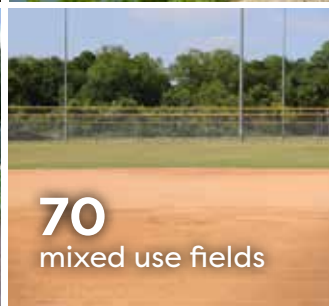
330
parks



13
performing arts
venues



172
playgrounds



70
mixed use fields



100
tennis courts



57
basketball courts



76
baseball and
softball fields



47
volleyball
courts



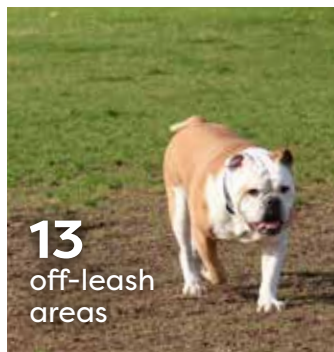
25
recreation and
senior centers



6
disc golf
courses



6
golf courses



13
off-leash
areas



25
soccer
fields



73
historic buildings



5
historic cemeteries

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC DIRECTION GOALS

SD23

AUSTIN STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2023

Austin Parks and Recreation (PAR) establishes its goals and objectives through the City of Austin's Strategic Direction 2023 (SD23) Initiative. Goals and objectives in each category are tied to services that provide the best overall outcomes for Austin residents.

4 DEPARTMENTAL GOALS:



- A.** Align accessible and diverse programs and services with community needs and interests.



- B.** Activate and enhance urban park spaces to provide flexible and diverse programming.



- C.** Ensure that the parks system preserves recreational and natural spaces to serve as a respite from urban life.



- D.** Expand and improve access to parks and facilities for all.



Look for these icons throughout this report to see which programs, projects, and investments directly support PAR'S Departmental Goals.





The PARD Compass outlines the mission, goals and key performance indicators. SD23 outcomes for PARD are:

- 1) Culture and Lifelong Learning (CLL)
- 2) Health and Environment (HE)

These outcomes have indicator categories that are measured annually.

Find these measure stories on the Strategic Performance Dashboard at: [AustinTexas.gov/StrategicPlan](https://austintexas.gov/StrategicPlan)



CULTURE & LIFELONG LEARNING

Being enriched by Austin's unique civic, cultural, ethnic, and learning opportunities.

Indicator Category A.

Quality, accessibility, and diversity of civic and cultural venues, events, programs, and resources

46%

CLL.A.6 – Percentage of available reservations filled at City owned cultural spaces (new metric)

Indicator Category C.

Appreciation, respect, and welcoming of all people and cultures

133k

CLL.C.4 – Number of attendees at City supported multicultural activities

98%

CLL.C.5 – Number of participants in City supported events or programs who report that they increased their knowledge and understanding of culture, history and/or art



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

Enjoying a sustainable environment and a healthy life, physically and mentally.

Indicator Category C.

Accessibility to quality parks, trails, and recreational opportunities
Top 10 Indicator

67%

HE.C.1 – Percentage of citizens who have access to parks and open spaces (live within one-quarter mile in urban core and within half-mile outside of urban core)

45/100

HE.C.2 – Trust for Public Land annual ParkScore ranking (absolute score and ranking among U.S. cities)

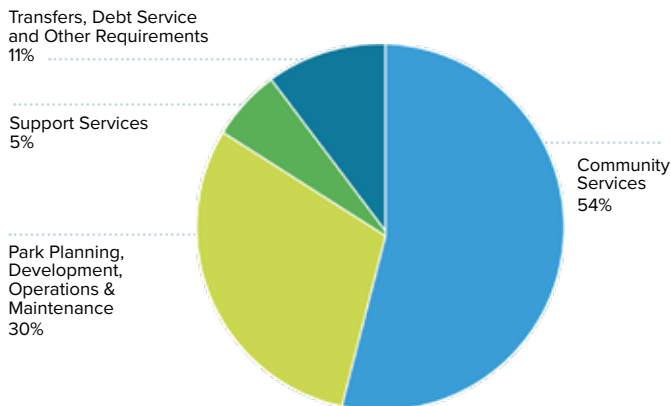
21%

HE.C.4 – Percentage of PARD programs and services that are ADA accessible.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Funding by Program

Community Services	\$54,528,390
Park Planning, Development, Operations & Maintenance	\$30,267,457
Support Services	\$5,728,492
Transfers, Debt Service, and Other Requirements	\$11,101,331
Total Budget by Program	\$101,625,670



Revenue by Source

Charges for Services/Goods	\$15,165,919
Licenses, Permits, and Inspections	\$6,703
Other Revenue	\$1,288,106
Transfers In	\$1,000,145
Use of Money and Property	\$1,765,052
Total Actual Revenue	\$19,225,925

FY21 EXPENDITURES

Capital Projects by Category

Aquatic	\$1,630,007
Athletics	\$408,389
Buildings and Improvements	\$5,477,728
Cemeteries	\$868,734
Golf	\$2,193,983
Land Acquisition	\$18,294,757
Parks	\$17,940,282
Plans and Studies	\$481,550
Playscapes	\$1,449,969
Trails	\$565,505
Total Projects by Category	\$49,310,904

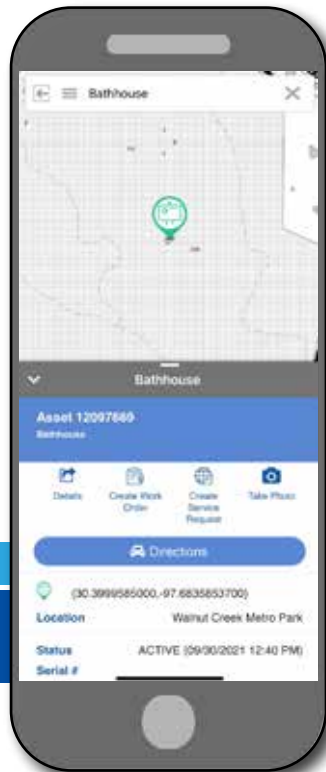
Grants

Capital Improvement Projects	-
General Fund	\$223,000
Total Grants	\$223,000

Personnel

Personnel Full-Time	745
Grant Full-Time	-
Total Full Time Staff	745

ASSET MANAGEMENT



Preserving Assets and Facilities

Asset Management develops and maintains data management infrastructure to plan for the life cycle management of its assets.



The team completed the transition to Maximo, a new cloud-based work order and asset management system.



Asset Management inventoried over 10,000 park assets with a combined replacement value of more than \$800 million.



PARD reached a record \$49.3 million in Capital Improvement Program (CIP) spending on parkland acquisitions, new development, and rehabilitation and improvements to parks and facilities.

SUPPORT SERVICES



HUMAN RESOURCES

Park Ranger Staff Recruiting

The PARD Employment Compensation Team held a timed bike assessment as part of a Park Ranger staff recruiting event at the Circle C Veloway. More than 10 candidates attended, and they had to complete several laps within a certain time limit followed by a short-written exam.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

The Information Systems Management (ISM) group is PARD's in-house IT unit that provides support for RecTrac, custom applications, general information technology, and performance measures. ISM published data on seven SD-23 Performance Measures in the Socrata-based City of Austin Data Portal including datasets, story pages and data cards.



265
Tech Issues
Resolved



\$434k
Tech Purchasing

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Accounting

In FY21, PARD's Accounting Team consistently processed all accounts payable (AP) invoices within the state mandated AP 30-day turnaround requirement. In the final quarter of the fiscal year, PARD invoices were paid on average within 20 days, well below the 30-day requirement.

Contracts, Procurements and Grants

PARD fostered relationships with 49 nonprofit groups to provide services to Austin at no cost to the Department. PARD won a \$50,000 Digital Humanities Advancement Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for a history project at Oakwood Cemetery. Additionally, PARD's grant from Central Texas Food Bank for after school meals at three recreation centers was renewed as was a grant from Capital Area Planning Council of Governments for senior transportation programs.



2k
Public Programs
Provided



38.5k
New User
Accounts Created



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Communications and Engagement Unit (CEU) seeks to build a community connected to their parks and recreation system through meaningful stories, collaborative dialogue, and community engagement. In FY21, the team facilitated 48 virtual community engagement events and 37 in-person events connecting with more than 1,500 community members.

CEU developed and implemented PARD's Community Ambassador program with two community ambassadors who connected with their communities about Givens District Park interpretive signage and Zilker Metropolitan Park Vision Plan.



Equity

PARD staff continue to reflect and engage in ways to build a more equitable and inclusive Department. Equity highlights include developing Austin Equity Equation, a traveling exhibit that will be on display at several PARD facilities over the next year, and the hiring of the first Equity and Inclusion Program Manager. This position will lead the Department in proactively implementing equitable long and short range planning, policy development, practices and actions, as well as helping influence attitudes within PARD that will produce equitable access, opportunities, and outcomes for the workforce and the communities we serve.

Language Access

PARD Language Access Plan updates provided guidance to the Department on how to support community members who may have limited English proficiency.



Pandemic Pivots in Communications and Engagement

PARD migrated a portion of its programs, promotion and community engagement to online forums in order to continue providing services to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic. This operational pivot required the team to make frequent communications updates, share health and safety messaging, adapt existing protocols, create additional procedures, and utilize new online technology and tools.

CEU made targeted efforts to reach people who may be disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic through communications, outreach, and community engagement. Moving forward, CEU anticipates utilizing some of the digital tools and new procedures that were implemented during the pandemic as they provide greater access, flexibility and the ability to record communications and community engagement efforts.

PLANNING OUR PARKS

VISION PLANS

COMPLETED



George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural and Genealogy Center Facility Expansion Plan



In 2000, a Feasibility Study for the Expansion of the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center was conducted, and a three-phase building program was developed. While phase one was implemented, work on phases two and three had not progressed. Through 2018 Bond funding and City Council funding, PARD sought to advance the previous planning efforts through the development of the Carver Museum Facility Expansion Plan that would establish Carver as the heart of Black art and culture in Austin. The planning process began in Spring 2020 with the objective to develop a plan better aligned with the site's current usage, changes to the surrounding area, and community desires. The plan triples the building footprint with expanded galleries, studios, classrooms, and 500-seat theater. It also weaves facilities into the exterior with a flexible event lawn and pavilion, community garden, and new Juneteenth Plaza anchoring the campus within the surrounding community. The Facility Expansion Plan was unanimously approved by City Council on June 10, 2021.



VISION PLANS IN PROGRESS

Central Williamson Creek Greenway

Vision Plan



The Department partnered with The Nature Conservancy, Community Powered Workshop, and Asakura Robinson to support a community-led Central Williamson Creek Greenway Vision Plan reimagining nearly two miles of connected parkland and residential floodplain buyout properties. The plan promotes ecological restoration efforts, green infrastructure, low-impact trail connectivity, and accessible gathering spaces. The Vision Plan was finalized and approved in August 2021.

Scenic Brook Pocket Park Concept Plan



In partnership with the Austin Parks Foundation, the Department completed a concept plan for Scenic Brook Pocket Park in the fall of 2020. The concept plan identified community priorities for the park through a robust public engagement process that included multiple forms of outreach. The approved concept plan calls for a loop trail, nature play elements, a half-court basketball, picnic areas, and a community garden.

Zilker Metropolitan Park Vision Plan



The Zilker Metropolitan Park Vision Plan is a community-driven planning process to establish a guiding framework for the restoration and future development of the park. It is the first comprehensive planning initiative to encompass the park's 350 acres and associated facilities. The project kicked off in February 2021 and will assess all aspects of the site with a comprehensive lens including programming, maintenance, environmental features and ecology, historical preservation and cultural resources, transportation, circulation, and parking, as well as business operations and management. The project team has hosted three virtual community-wide meetings, 16 small group discussions, two series of pop-up events in all 10 districts, and released four surveys throughout the year to gather community input. Two community-wide meetings and continued outreach connecting to diverse communities in Austin are scheduled for 2022, with a draft plan anticipated for Spring 2022.



ZILKER
METROPOLITAN
PARK
VISION PLAN



The Community PARKnerships program coordinates the efforts of partners and volunteers. By leveraging resources and talent, PARKnerships can enhance Austin’s parks and help grow a sense of community and stewardship.

COMMUNITY ACTIVATED PARK PROJECTS



The Community Activated Park Projects (CAPP) Program provides a pathway for neighbors, non-profits, community groups and partners to leverage resources to plan and implement park improvement projects that align with PARD goals and meet community priorities.

75 CAPP Proposals in FY21



Balcones District Park Playground and Pavilion



Balcones District Park Playground and Pavilion replacement and expansion started in 2016 at the request of the Milwood Neighborhood. The neighborhood and Friends of Balcones District in conjunction with volunteer designers developed concepts and received community feedback for the playground and new pavilion. The new pavilion, swings, climbing area and other play structures were opened to the public in April of 2021.



Mary Moore Searight Metro Park Handball Court



The Mary Moore Searight handball project was initiated by Austin hand-ball players who had no dedicated courts for outdoor handball. The Searight handball walls consist of two tall concrete walls constructed at one end of the Mary Moore Searight tennis courts to create a multi-use court. The renovated courts opened to the public in September of 2021.



Wooldridge School Park

Austin FC, 4ATX, and U.S. Soccer Foundation, in partnership with PARD and AISD, installed a soccer mini-pitch and lighting at Wooldridge School Park. The soccer mini-pitch replaced one of the underutilized tennis courts at the site. Austin FC continues to offer free programming for the community at the site.



Economic Geology at University of Texas Austin Mt. Bonnell Interpretive Signage

The Bureau of Economic Geology at UT Austin proposed and funded the installation of interpretive signage at Mt. Bonnell as part of the Texas GeoSign Project. In collaboration with PARD Natural Resources Division, Historic Preservation and Tourism Program, and Community PARKnerships, the signage was installed in Summer 2021. The project illustrates the geological processes that shaped Mt. Bonnell over millions of years.



Highland Neighborhood Association Reilly School Park Social Emotional Learning Garden

St. David's Foundation awarded the Austin Ed Fund \$130,320 in January 2020 to create a comprehensive Social Emotional Learning Garden on joint-use City of Austin and AISD property at Reilly Elementary School. The project was a collaboration with PARD, Highland Neighborhood Association, Reilly Elementary School, AISD, Austin Parks Foundation, and the Austin Ed Fund. This sustainable, meditative space and wildlife habitat will encourage healthy self-esteem, curiosity, cooperation and mental well-being through gardening and gardening programs. The garden will be accessible to students during school hours and to the community outside of school hours.

CITIES CONNECTING CHILDREN TO NATURE

Cities Connecting Children to Nature (CCCN) seeks to create more equitable and abundant access to nature for children throughout Austin.

PARD, APF and AISD partnered to install six outdoor classrooms at Pickle, Odom, Cook, Andrews, Pecan Springs and Oak Springs in response to COVID-19.

This City-wide initiative has five strategies to achieve its goal of providing abundant and equitable access to nature. The Nature Play strategy committee created a new procurement system for securing logs and wood pieces to be used for nature play installations, as part of the CCCN initiative. Led by PARD and in partnership with the Watershed Protection Department, Development Services Department, Public Works, Austin Fire, Austin Resource Recovery, Austin Independent School District, and Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, the process engages existing City vendors in logs that are already being removed and transforms them into nature play features.



Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park

Nature Play Installation and Programming at the site

PARD’s first official Nature Play Space opened at Walnut Creek Metro Park. Re-homed from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center’s Fortlandia exhibit, the iconic Fairy Pavilion structure is its signature feature. Site activation has taken place at the park in partnership with Native Wilderness School providing four free public nature programming events. A Parks with Purpose grant from the St. David’s Foundation funded the nature play expansion and programming.



ADOPT-A-PARK

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

111 Adopt-a-Park Groups

In FY21, the program grew 11% over the previous year.

17 School Parks Groups

In FY21, the program grew 30% over the previous year.



STEWARDSHIP

Thousands of volunteers assisted in the maintenance and operations of the parks and recreation system in FY21.

Volunteer Contributions

In FY21



8.5k

Total Volunteers



24k

Hours Contributed



12.6k

Pounds of
Trash Collected



PARKNERS

PARD is committed to partnerships that align with the overall mission, vision, values, and provide benefit to the public and the parks system. PARD actively seeks partnerships with non-profit organizations, conservancies and businesses for park development, maintenance, operations and programming.



48

Non-profit Partners and Community Groups



\$14M

Private funds invested in park maintenance and improvements



The Trail Foundation Boardwalk Benches

The second phase of The Trail Foundation's Boardwalk Bench Program includes 10 new benches that were installed in the fall of 2021. These benches provide spaces for rest, contemplation and remembrance along the 1.2 mile Boardwalk on the Butler Trail.



Circle C Metropolitan Park Violet Crown Trail

PARD is partnering with Hill Country Conservancy to construct part of the Violet Crown Trail regional trail system in Circle C Metropolitan Park. The trail will connect existing trails on the west side of MoPac and the regional trail crossing on Slaughter Creek east of MoPac that was completed in 2019. Work begins in early 2022.

2 mi of a Planned Regional Trail System



PARKLAND DEDICATION AND LAND ACQUISITIONS

Austin is growing, and so is our park system, thanks largely to Parkland Dedication (PLD). PLD is committed to improving the Austin parks system by developing and dedicating new parks, building connections to existing parks, and working towards an interconnected network of parks that serve all of Austin's community. PLD directly contributed to improving park access and reducing Austin's overall park deficiency by 2%, equivalent to approximately 20,000 residents who can now walk to a park. This year, 30 new parks were added to the park system thanks to the Parkland Dedication Ordinance and the 2018 Parkland Acquisition Bond funding.

In FY21 the Council-adopted Parkland Dedication fees were increased to account for the rising expense of parkland and park amenities. The value of land in Austin has increased recently, affecting the cost of purchasing new parkland. The latest fee update reflects the moving average of purchasing parkland over the past five years, a calculation specified in the City Code. PARD expects that the fee increase will result in significantly higher funding collected from PLD fees that will be appropriated in FY23.



College Row Pocket Park

Land Acquisitions

In FY21 the Department expended \$4.8 million in parkland dedication fees, and further leveraged \$12.8 million from the 2018 Parkland Acquisition Bond to acquire or expand 11 new parks across the city. One example is College Row Pocket Park, a 0.63-acre park in the Blackshear Prospect Hill Neighborhood in East Austin directly adjacent to Huston-Tillotson University. The parkland was originally the homestead of the Means family who raised many generations of civil rights and parks advocates, and desired that their land be dedicated as a public park.

Other acquisitions include five neighborhood parks, two pocket parks and two greenbelts.

Parkland Dedication

In FY21, PARD acquired over 27 acres across 19 new parks and easements through the dedication of private land as public parkland in accordance with the PLD Ordinance.

One of the newly dedicated parks is Meadow Lea Neighborhood Park in south central Austin, at the intersection of Meadow Lea and South Congress. The park is 1.22 acres, and has a picnic and barbeque area, and passive lawn space. The park was dedicated in March 2021 and serves a formerly park deficient neighborhood in District 2.



Learn more about
Parkland Dedication:
[www.AustinTexas.gov/
ATXparkland](http://www.AustinTexas.gov/ATXparkland)



DEVELOPING OUR PARKS & FACILITIES

Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center



The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center (ESBMACC) is implementing Phase 2 of the 2018 City Council-approved Facility Expansion Plan. Currently in the design phase, plans include a renovation and expansion of the facility to support programs that foster a meaningful understanding and appreciation of Mexican American, Native American, Chicano, and other Latinx cultures.

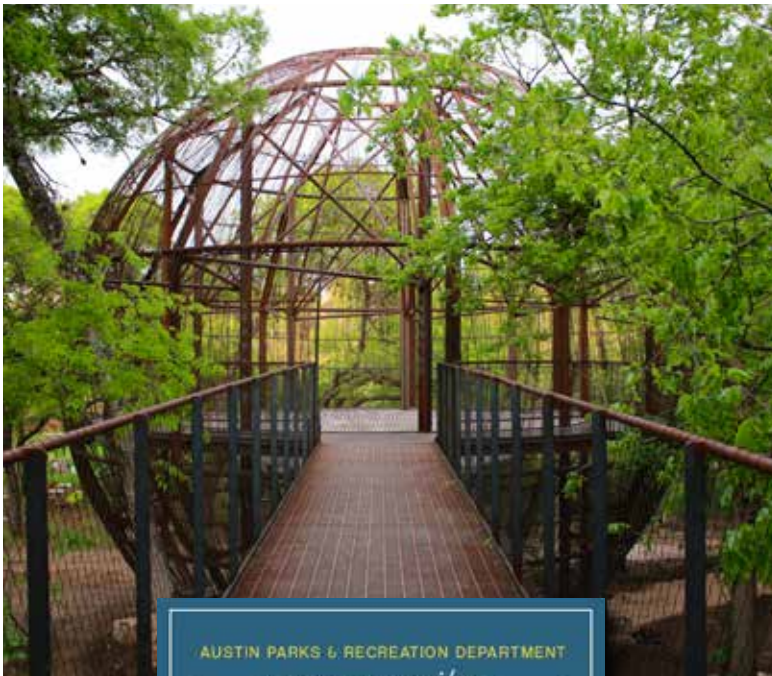
The proposed design scheme completes the crescent shape of the building on both the north and south ends of the facility, and incorporates a new lake level. These three expanded building areas will allow for a full enclosure of the Zocalo Outdoor Plaza, and will double the current programmable space. A proposed unobstructed line of sight to Lady Bird Lake will showcase this iconic facility, and give prominence and visibility to the community it serves. Site construction is anticipated to begin in late 2022 or early 2023 with a grand opening of the expanded and improved cultural center anticipated in the Fall of 2024.

Dougherty Arts Center



After a significant community engagement phase, including 10 small group meetings and presentations to eight Boards and Commissions, the Dougherty Arts Center (DAC) replacement project received City Council approval to fully move into the design phase in May of 2021. The new building aims to serve as Austin's "cultural living room" by supporting access for all and will be located adjacent to the ZACH Theatre and PARD Main Office. The project has ambitious sustainability goals and is pursuing both LEED and WELL certifications. The design phase is scheduled to finish in late 2022.





Kingsbury Commons at Pease Park

\$10M in private funds 

The Kingsbury Commons renovation project was completed in partnership with Pease Park Conservancy through the generous support of the Moody Foundation and other key donors. The community can now enjoy a gathering space with terraced seating, a new playscape and nature play area, a splash pad, basketball court, baseball field, enhanced restroom with volunteer plaza and storage, a bocce court, a renovated historic picnic area, innovative treescape, and expanded native planting. The project's sustainable design reduces water demand, improves air quality and connects people with nature.



All Kingsbury Commons images by Ashley Nava-Monteros.



Waterloo Park



The first phase of Waterloo Greenway, a revitalized Waterloo Park, opened to the public in August 2021. The park includes a heritage tree deck, park restrooms, a food truck area, traditional and nature-based play features, open lawn areas, two new pedestrian bridges, accessible trails, a restored stretch of Waller Creek within the park, and Moody Amphitheater, a 5,000-person performance venue.

11 Acres of
Parkland
8 Transplanted
Live Oaks
500 New Trees
90k New Plants
500k Gallons of
Drinking Water
Saved Per Year
\$30M Private Funds
Invested



Waterloo Park is now an urban habitat for birds, butterflies, bats, and other beneficial creatures. The project earned a four-star Austin Energy Green Building rating. The park uses no potable water for any of the flush fixtures in the restrooms or for irrigation.



Waterloo Greenway

Waterloo Greenway includes a network of parks and trails through downtown Austin from 15th Street all the way to Lady Bird Lake along Waller Creek, a highly degraded urban stream. Goals of the Greenway are not only to conserve and protect natural resources but also to connect people to nature by creating opportunities for recreation, bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, and to further economic development within the Waller Creek District, PARD, and the Watershed Protection Department.



35 Acres

1.5 Mile Network of Parks and Trails

Creek Delta (The Confluence)



The second phase of the Waterloo Greenway project is nearing the finish line for the design and documentation stage. It will move into construction in summer 2022. This 13-acre project includes new pedestrian and bicycle trails as well as full ecological restoration of Waller Creek between Lady Bird Lake and 4th Street. The restoration of the creek, including bank stabilization and riparian reconstruction, is made possible by the floodplain-reducing benefits of the Watershed Protection Department flood control tunnel, completed in 2018. Once finished, Creek Delta will connect the public via creekside trails and treetop bridges to downtown destinations such as the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail, the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, the Rainey Street District, the Austin Convention Center, Sir Swante Palm Park and, eventually, to several stations along Project Connect's Blue Line. Creek Delta will allow Austinites to experience nature in one of the most urbanized areas of the city.



METROPOLITAN AND DISTRICT PARKS

COMPLETED



Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park Playground



The new playground at Walnut Creek Park provides modern, accessible equipment for children of all ages and abilities in North Austin. The design features a loop exploration path through a sensory garden, ground-level nature play opportunities, and an iconic platform structure that thematically aligns with the surrounding environment.

Givens District Park Playground



PARD completed a playground replacement and expansion with a new swing set, music play zone, and an ADA sidewalk at Givens District Park as part of its \$2 million Phase 1 Implementation Plan. Givens Park neighborhood groups helped select colors to reflect the neighborhoods history. The new playground facilities opened to the public in April 2021.

IN PROGRESS



Walnut Creek Regional Trail



Phase 2A of the Northern Walnut Creek Trail began construction in late October 2021. PARD is partnering with the Public Works Urban Trails Program to fund, manage, and implement the trail. The 12-foot-wide concrete trail continues the Northern Walnut Creek Trail with a trailhead in Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park then heads east crossing under N. Lamar Blvd. and ends at Oakbrook Dr.



Pharr Tennis Center



Constructed in the late 1970s, the Pharr Tennis Center courts have reached the end of their life. PARD will renew the tennis courts, add a pro shop building facility, and make new improvements to meet accessibility requirements and address other site deficiencies. This project is pursuing both SITES and LEED certifications and it would be the first ever City project to achieve such a distinction. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2022 with the grand opening of the renovated facility anticipated in early 2023.

NEIGHBORHOOD AND POCKET PARKS

COMPLETED



Williams Button Park



Williams Button Park is the second Button Park in PARD's system. The project is constructed at Williams School Park and provides a park for non-school age children and adults that is open during regular park hours including school hours. Amenities of this park include a play area themed after the Williams Elementary Wildcats mascot as well as game tables, seating, and native plantings. The park opened to the public in April 2021.



Comal Pocket Park



The Comal Pocket Park renovation included improvements to accessibility, a playscape replacement, new picnic area, bocce court, resurfaced basketball court, raised decking, and new site furnishings. The renovation met the needs of the community while replacing the rapidly aging infrastructure. The input process included multiple stakeholder meetings, surveys, and public meetings that took place between 2017 and 2019.



Springdale Neighborhood Park



PARD, in partnership with the Austin Parks Foundation, replaced the aged playground and added a fitness zone at Springdale Park. They also planted large trees that will grow to add more shaded areas for the playground.

IN PROGRESS



Oertli Neighborhood Park



A concept plan was completed with community input for the undeveloped, 6-acre park in Northeast Austin. The park will include a walking trail, playground, a pavilion, shade trees and ample space for open play. Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2022.



Brownie Neighborhood Park



The next phase of implementation at Brownie Neighborhood Park will include a picnic pavilion, irrigation system expansion, a loop walking trail, solar security lighting, benches, picnic tables, a new playground, a new drinking fountain, and a vehicle turnaround with ADA parking spaces. Construction on these enhancements is anticipated to begin in 2022 with completion planned for mid-2023.



Highland Neighborhood Park



The proposed scope for phase 2 of the concept plan implementation will include two ball fields with lighting, a walking trail, benches, a new drinking fountain, parking lot improvements, additional trees, and an art installation in partnership with the City's Arts in Public Places program. The design will reflect sensitivity for the Waller Creek watershed and provide green infrastructure opportunities in collaboration with the Watershed Protection Department. Construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2022.

AQUATIC FACILITIES

IN PROGRESS

Givens Aquatic Facility



Givens Pool, first opened in 1958, is an important and well-loved piece of east Austin's history. The renovation of the facility will include distinct spaces for swimming laps, open swimming, wading, and diving. New restrooms, changing rooms, and multi-purpose rooms will provide comfortable and accessible facilities for the community while the iconic oak tree and pavilion will be preserved. The project is finishing the design phase and construction is estimated to start in 2023.



Givens Aquatic Facility

Colony Park Aquatic Facility



This new aquatic facility will complement the recently completed Colony Park District Park. The project is nearing the end of the design phase with plans for two distinct pools: a lap swimming and diving pool, and a state-of-the-art leisure pool featuring play structures, a water slide and an infinity edge. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2023.



Colony Park Aquatic Facility

Parque Zaragoza Bathhouse



Plans are underway to renovate and restore the original Parque Zaragoza Bathhouse structure. Renovations will include updates to the existing interior and an enhanced and designated entry area. The large recreation space will be renovated for the purposes of allowing open airflow through the large windows during swim season and will also be designed to allow for lifeguard training during the colder periods of the year. The project is currently in the design phase. The pool facility will remain open for the project's duration and is anticipated to be ready for the 2023 swim season.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Photo Above: *Dedication of bandstand at Wooldridge Square in 1910*
C06049, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

Wooldridge Square

2021 Texas Recreation and Parks Society

Lone Star Legacy Park



In March 2021, the Texas Recreation and Parks Society honored Wooldridge Square as a Lone Star Legacy Park, one of eight Texas parks designated. When Judge Edwin Waller platted the City of Austin in 1839, he designated four public squares in each quadrant of the city. Only three of the original squares remain. One of them is Wooldridge Square which was neglected for decades until 1909 when Mayor A.P. Wooldridge launched improvement efforts. The park became known as an area where politicians and orators connected with the public and where rallies were held in support of women's suffrage. Wooldridge Square's importance is also closely tied to significant statewide and national events. Booker T. Washington addressed a crowd in Austin at Wooldridge Square in 1911 after he was not allowed to speak on the floor of the Texas Legislature due to the color of his skin. Minnie Fisher Cunningham who helped organize the National League of Women Voters, announced her campaign as the first Texas woman to run for the U.S. Senate at the park in 1928. In 1948, Lyndon Baines Johnson, who later served as the 36th U.S. President, launched his U.S. senatorial campaign at a rally there.





Downs Field



Construction started in July 2021 on rehabilitation of the historic Downs Field Grandstands on E. 12th Street.

100 Years of History

The property's history as a sports landmark dates to the 1914 purchase by leadership of Samuel Huston College, a Historically Black University, which used the field as the college's baseball stadium beginning in the late 1920s. Samuel Huston College eventually become Huston-Tillotson University (HTU) and the field continues to be used as the HTU Rams home field today.

As a landmark of sports tourism, Downs Field is the site of one of the few surviving home ballfields associated with historic Negro League Baseball. The field was home to the Austin Black Senators, an all-Black semi-professional baseball team from the Texas Negro League. The team began playing there in the summer of 1927 and went on to win the Negro World Series in 1934.



1947 Barton Springs Bathhouse



Design work is coming together for the rehabilitation of the 1947 Barton Springs Bathhouse which will encompass extensive renovations and ADA improvements to serve the nearly one million annual visitors to the pool. The project is guided by the 2008 Barton Springs Pool Vision Plan and will include an overhauled Splash! Exhibit which aims to inform visitors about water quality and conservation.



Seaholm Intake Building



The now retired Seaholm Intake building contributes to the Seaholm Power Plant National Historic Register designation and showcases a unique period of American Art Deco municipal architecture and Public Works engineering. As the first phase of the Seaholm Waterfront Vision Plan, the purpose of the current phase of construction is to make the Intake Building safe and inhabitable for small programs and events by restoring character-defining features and updating the building. Construction began in August 2021 and will set the stage for Phase 2 which is being developed in partnership with The Trail Foundation.



Historic Preservation, Tourism Program Updates

As COVID-19 continued to hamper in-person programming, the tourism and marketing team focused on showcasing some of the most influential and historic figures in Austin's parks system. Hometown hero and baseball legend Willie Wells was highlighted with a feature-length Texas Monthly ad, as were pioneering women of the parks system like Emma S. Barrientos, namesake of the Mexican American Cultural Center, and Catherine Lamkin, namesake of a pavilion and an arboretum in Rosewood Neighborhood Park. The team also focused on shooting new videos and photos to better market our historic parks.

SUSTAINABILITY



From litter clean-up to policy work that contributes to environmental, social, and fiscal sustainability, the department participates in a number of City-wide efforts to improve the environment in the present and for generations to come.

Recycling and Composting

PARD completed Phase I of the Recycling Implementation Plan. Recycling receptacles have been installed in all metropolitan parks, athletics sites, aquatic sites, golf facilities, and recently completed Capital Improvement Projects. Phase II, which will focus on district parks, will begin in early FY22. Internally, PARD implemented composting at major administrative buildings and provided staff training at Recreation Centers on recycling difficult items such as fluorescent light bulbs and large appliances. In spring 2021, PARD teamed up with the Watershed Protection Department to host TrashBlitz. For three weeks, volunteers at multiple park locations collected and categorized litter, and learned about proper waste disposal in public spaces.

Solar Lighting

PARD continues to enhance perceived safety and security while extending the use of parks during operating hours in the dark using solar-powered lights. PARD will install 22 lights at nine parks in FY22, prioritizing projects through an equity lens.

Climate Equity Plan

As part of a broad coalition of City employees and Austin community members, PARD staff served on several advisory groups that provided technical input for the Austin Climate Equity Plan which was adopted by City Council in September 2021. The new plan centers on equity and moves the City's goal of net-zero community-wide greenhouse gas emissions to 2040 (10 years earlier than previously planned). PARD also celebrated a milestone when the completed Kingsbury Commons project was awarded Gold under the Sustainable SITES Initiative rating system, the first park in Austin to win a SITES award.

Green Building Policy Update

In September 2021, City Council approved a resolution updating the City's Green Building Policy. PARD staff contributed to the development of the policy over the last several years. The new policy clarifies sustainability rating system equivalencies and performance requirements appropriate for different typologies of capital improvement projects, ensures that public-private partnerships implement the same or better standards, and outlines key priorities and guidance for site selection, net zero and low carbon, health and wellness, and sustainable landscape strategies. Most notably, the new policy requires that projects owned or operated by PARD that are aquatic facilities or landscape-oriented, achieve SITES certification. Building projects that are owned or operated by PARD, such as cultural centers, recreation centers and office buildings, must achieve either LEED Silver certification or AEGB three-star rating.

PARD celebrated a milestone in FY21 when the completed Kingsbury Commons project was awarded Gold certification under the Sustainable SITES rating system; the first park in our system to achieve SITES certification.

ADA TRANSITION PLAN



The goals of PARD's ADA Transition Plan Implementation are to provide the most accessible program options to the greatest number of users by matching programs with compliant physical locations; to ensure staff are adequately trained on recognizing and understanding ADA compliance standards; and to continue to move toward the aspirational target of 100% ADA compliance in Austin's park system.

2021 saw significant progress across all three of these measures. Two staff members attended the Texas Accessibility Academy, a two-day comprehensive study of the Texas Architectural Barriers Act and 2012 Texas Accessibility Standards and ultimately obtained certification as Registered Accessibility Specialists through the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

PARD also revised the ADA compliance metric that is being tracked as part of the Council-adopted SD23. Under Diane Steinbrueck's leadership, the ADA Program developed a data-driven process for this outcome which placed greater emphasis on the accessibility of programs offered and field verification of ADA-improvements completed through maintenance and CIP activities. This matrix provides a current status of facility accessibility, identifies critical gaps, and highlights the highest priorities for corrective actions.

Major projects such as Waterloo Park and Kingsbury Commons were certified as ADA compliant, moving Austin closer towards the goal of 100% accessibility.



In Memoriam: Diane Steinbrueck

Diane's life was sadly and tragically lost in October 2021 due to an accidental vehicle collision. Diane brought a detailed eye and enthusiasm to her role, and everyone who knew her and worked with her will miss her. As the Department pauses to recognize Diane's contributions, staff commits to honor her legacy by continuing to build on the program for which she so passionately advocated.



CARING FOR OUR PARKS



Commons Ford Metro Park Historic Cabin Roof Replacement



When the roof shingles of this historic cabin failed and the water leaks were starting to cause damage to the structural roof supports, PARD's Operations and Maintenance team replaced the cedar shake roof with period-type shingles to prevent further damage and protect the structure for future generations to enjoy.



Oswaldo A.B. Cantu Pan Am Recreation Center Gym Floor Replacement



This gym floor, which was already quite old, incurred significant damage due to Winter Storm Uri in 2021. The damage was beyond repair so the floor needed to be replaced entirely.



Zilker Metro Park Great Lawn Irrigation



In FY21, the PARD Grounds Division added irrigation to the Zilker Park Great Lawn. Turf maintenance staff worked alongside the Capital Improvement Program team to install several feet of pipe as well as the irrigation water line and wiring alongside it, then reseeded the area with Bermuda grass. Now, the grass can be watered through an irrigation system rather than by hand. This saves time and increases overall efficiency.



Building Renovations

The Building Renovation Program implements projects to address vital building systems and equipment which are at a point of failure, or have reached the end of their useful life expectancy. The program also upgrades existing facilities to address accessibility, meet energy efficiency targets, or adjust to changes of use.

This year, PARD replaced two elevator hydraulic pumps at Delores Duffie Recreation Center and Austin Nature and Science Center; rebuilt a retaining wall and drainage channel at Northwest Recreation Center; installed new roofs at Mendez and Delores Duffie Recreation Centers; and installed new air conditioning systems at Northwest Recreation Center, Delores Duffie Recreation Center, and the Boyd Vance Theater at the Carver Museum, Genealogy and Cultural Center.



Veloway

About five years ago, the Veloway was fully repaved. Part of the ongoing maintenance plan for the Veloway requires that an asphalt sealant coat be applied every five to seven years. This year, Operations and Maintenance staff identified funds to have contractor Alpha Paving apply asphalt sealant to the Veloway. PARD then worked with the Transportation Department to have the center stripe repainted.

Arts Responders

The Museums and Cultural Centers ArtsResponders program commissioned public arts projects to promote healthy COVID-19 choices. Participating artists used social practice techniques to reach a city-wide audience with their videos, murals, dances, and musical performances. This program was also under the umbrella of the Austin Civilian Conservation Corp, which worked to hire individuals whose livelihood was impacted by COVID-19.

11 Public Arts Projects



Online Visitors



Pedestrians in all 10 City Council Districts



\$7.5M
Operating Budget



7k
Visits to Educational and Cultural Facilities

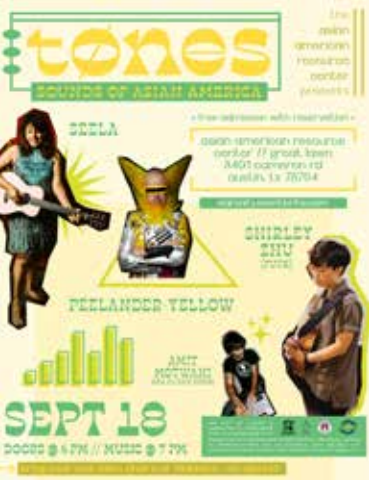


3k
Attendance at Free Cultural Special Events



8k Hours
Arts and Cultural Programming Provided

MUSEUMS & CULTURAL CENTERS



Asian American Resource Center

Tones: Sounds of Asian America

Tones: Sounds of Asian America, a monthly virtual music series, features local Asian American musical artists from across generations and genres. The Asian American Resource Center series supports the diverse artist community by providing a platform where they can connect with and entertain the community during times of social distancing.

49 Artists

Featured in FY21

4.1k Followers

on Tones Facebook Group

Austin Chronicle
Best of Austin 2021

Best AAPI Soundtrack



O. Henry Museum Collections Recovery

After Winter Storm Uri 2021, the Brush Square Museums and Old Bakery and Emporium staff conducted a Disaster Response protocol and noted that over \$12,000 of items were irreparably damaged. Using the insurance revenue and additional funding from the Friends of Brush Square Museums, Brush Square Museums successfully bid on a rare collection of 1884 O. Henry original drawings and letters. These items will be prepared for exhibition upon completion of the O. Henry Museum renovation project.



50.9k

Attendees at
City-supported
Multicultural Activities



48.3k

Participants in City-offered
lifelong learning events
activities, and resources



97%

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

Elisabet Ney Museum
Suffrage Now:
A 19th Amendment
Centennial Exhibition ❤️

The Elisabet Ney Museum exhibit, Suffrage Now: A 19th Amendment Centennial, featured women photographers' work from all over the U.S. commenting on the state of Suffrage today. The Museum's virtual artist panel, "Suffrage Now?" featured a moderator in Austin, while the photographers participated from their homes in Brooklyn NY, Southampton PA, Houston, and Dallas.

.....
3.5k Participants
in the exhibition and events, with
viewers from as far away as Brazil.
.....

Dougherty Arts Center
LGBTQ+ Initiative 🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻

The Dougherty Arts Center (DAC) conducted an extensive community engagement survey to evaluate its current LGBTQ+ focused cultural arts programming, and to guide future offerings. This anonymous survey was part of the City of Austin's response to the LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission Recommendation 20200408-2A (1).

Survey data helped inform the DAC's expansion of LGBTQ+ centered cultural programming, including:

- Film screenings featuring Q&As with local LGBTQ+ filmmakers and actors
- LGBTQ+ virtual family event virtual game nights
- A four-week community mural project



Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Día de los Muertos 2020

The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center held their Día de los Muertos signature event on November 1 and 2, 2020. It was a two-day virtual celebration that featured local artists and activities in partnership with community organizations.

13k Viewers

On Social Media

.....

600 Kits

Sugar Skull Kits Created
and Distributed

.....

\$8k Paid

To Local Artists
and Organizations



George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural and Genealogy Center Stay Black & Live Vol. 2: A Citywide Juneteenth Festival

The Carver Museum hosted a Juneteenth Festival in partnership with Six Square, Black Austin Coalition, Jump On It, the Austin Area Urban League, Austin Justice Coalition, Black Leaders Collective, and GEAYA. The Festival included performances by Riders Against the Storm, Krudas Cubensi, Melat, Buffalo Nichols, W.C. Clark, Eimara Sol, Anastasia and the Heroes, and Stretch Musik. NOOK Turner emceed the second inaugural Freedom Desk, a virtual music series that featured local artists.

The in-person parade, fireworks, and Rosewood Park activations were also streamed to CarverMuseumATX.org, YouTube, Facebook Live, and the arrivals/departures terminal at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport.

.....

4k In-person Attendees

175k Live-stream Viewers

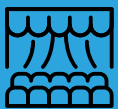
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Small Black Museum Residency Vol. 2

The Carver Museum presented an exhibition of art by the first cohort of resident artists from the inaugural year of the Small Black Museum Residency Project: Temi Olujobi, Hypatia Sorunke, and Adrian Armstrong. The mission of this residency program is to support and promote both established and emerging artists of African descent who are largely underrepresented in institutions. The three-month residency provided opportunities for these three artists to create new artwork, receive direct support through stipends, and engage in development support through workshops, professional consultation, and monthly critiques. The residency project culminated in an exhibit on display at the Carver Museum from August 27, 2021 through January 15, 2022.



EVENTS IN OUR PARKS



179
Days of
Filming

\$16,900
Donations to
PARD



37
Temporary
Concession
Permits

\$30k
Revenue
Generated

Moody Amphitheater Opening at Waterloo Park

PARD's Office of Special Events coordinated the opening of the Moody Amphitheater at Waterloo Park with the Waterloo Greenway Conservancy.



The Office of Special Events (OSE) re-opened park event sites, concessions, and commercial uses in accordance with public health guidelines. OSE also implemented online park entry passes to help provide a positive and safe guest experience at Emma and Walter Long Metropolitan Parks.

Zilker Winter Holiday Events

In December 2020, OSE coordinated the drive-through Trail of Lights experience. Staff also produced a virtual Zilker Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony to connect Austinites to the beloved holiday experience in safe and widely accessible manner.



55

Commercial
Use Permits

\$7.1k

Revenue
Generated

7.8k

Participants

AQUATICS



Aquatic Division



The Aquatic Division was able to open a total of 20 pools and nine splash pads despite the inability to hire or train new staff for the first six months of FY21 and the challenge of tending to the extensive facility damage caused by Winter Storm Uri.

Recruiting, Hiring, and Training



The Aquatic Division had full lifeguard training classes and regular wait lists for classes.

34

Full Lifeguard
Training Classes

30

Lifeguard
Recertification
Classes

454

People Certified
as Lifeguards

96

People
Re-certified
as Lifeguards



Swim Lessons and Swim Team

A modified programming schedule was created with classes at 12 different sites. Nine of the facilities also hosted a swim team. Pools were closed for lessons, allowing instructors and participants plenty of room.

Swim ATX

SwimATX is a partnership with AISD and the YMCA to offer swim lessons and lifeguard training to high school students. Students can then be hired as lifeguards by the Aquatic Division or the YMCA.

1.2k Swim Lessons Provided to Youths & Adults



ATXSwims Mobile App and Kiosks

The Aquatic Division launched a new payment system at Barton Springs Pool with the intent to eventually expand to all municipal pools. The new system includes self-service kiosks as well as the ability to pre-purchase tickets online or with the ATXSwims App.



Golfers of all ages and skill levels visit the Golf ATX courses to play recreationally and competitively.



6

Public Golf Courses

Five 18-hole courses,
one 9-hole course,
and one short course

312.6k

Golf Rounds Played

99.3k more rounds played than
in FY20

Tournaments

Tournaments were canceled from October 2020 through mid-April of 2021 due to COVID-19 concerns.

Tournaments and events resumed in May and, to accommodate the significant increase in rounds of public play especially on the weekends, large shotgun starts were limited to Monday through Thursday only, and smaller standard start tournaments filled up the schedule through the end of the year.

Rankings

Golf ATX courses were recognized by the Dallas Morning News' 2021 Top Ranked Golf Courses:

Top 25 Mid-Priced Golf Course

Grey Rock #18

Top 25 Economy Golf Courses

Roy Kizer #5

Morris Williams #18

Lions #19

Jimmy Clay #20

Course Improvements

The Golf Division's construction project team completed several improvements:

Lions Golf Course

Improvements to two different driving range areas

Morris Williams Golf Course

Re-vegetation due to freeze damage

Jimmy Clay Golf Course

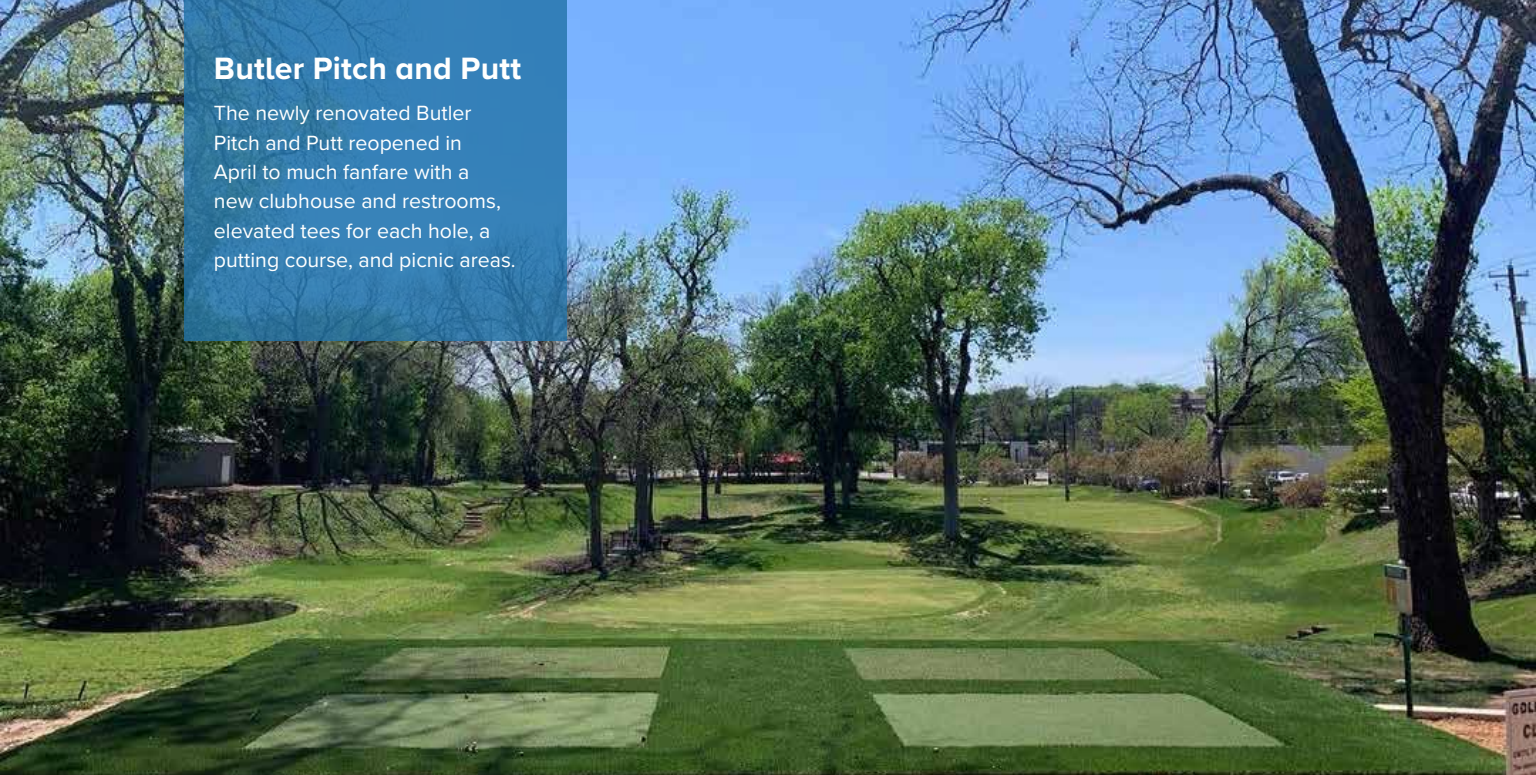
Major irrigation installation
Cart path repairs
Driving range mat installation

Grey Rock

Leveling of Grey Rock's #11 tee

Butler Pitch and Putt

The newly renovated Butler Pitch and Putt reopened in April to much fanfare with a new clubhouse and restrooms, elevated tees for each hole, a putting course, and picnic areas.



New Café and Food Concessionaire

The new Cisco's Munny Café opened at Lions Municipal Golf Course following a renovation of the snack bar area there. The Morris Williams Golf Course welcomed new food concessionaire Fairways Cantina.



COMMUNITY RECREATION



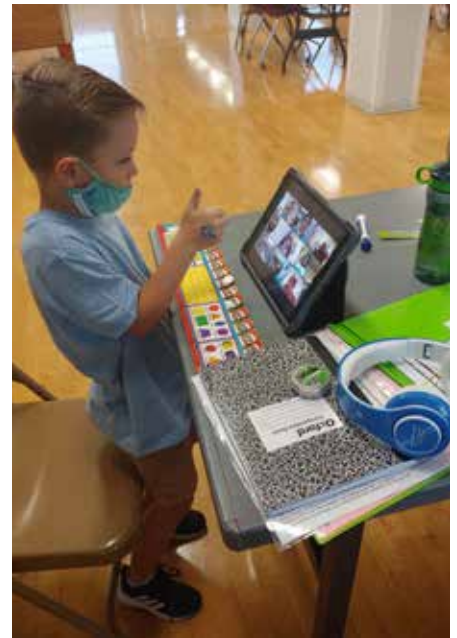
Recreation Centers Emergency Shelters Winter Storm Uri

Northwest, Givens, and Dittmar Recreation Centers hosted emergency cold weather sheltering day and night for people during Winter Storm Uri.

200 People Sheltered at Community Recreation Centers

9 Days

Emergency Shelters were in operation 24 hours/day for 9 consecutive days.



\$15.3M

Operating
Budget

17

Recreation
Centers

406

Participants in Stay Playful
Virtual After school Program

399

Participants for Virtual Winter
and Spring Break Programs

Varsity Generation Programs and Services for Adults Ages 50+

To attract residents ages 50 and older to programs and services, senior center programming was re-branded as Varsity Generation.



Senior Centers produced virtual exercise, healthy cooking, arts and crafts, music, and continuing education YouTube video activities for adults ages 50 and over.

3 Senior Centers

107 Videos produced by staff for adults 50+ with more than 17.4k views.

57 Virtual Programs offered for adults ages 50+ with over 14k participants.

404 Take-home Activity Kits Delivered to adults 50+

1.8k

Participants in Summer Camp for Youth and Teens

master the art of mastering

Varsity Generation offers Austinites ages 50 and up a variety of programs and services tailor-made for active adults. Get moving in new directions, explore new interests, and build new friendships.

Learn more about Varsity Generation programs, services, and community: austintexas.gov/varsitygeneration



1k

Take-home Kits Delivered to Virtual Class Participants

311 Videos

Staff created 311 videos for youth and adult programs.

ATHLETICS

The Athletic Programs Office offers youth and adult sport leagues, recreational instructional programs, and athletic facility reservations that help increase quality of life and promote an active lifestyle.

Geocache Austin

Geocache Austin was a free public event that took place during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. It exposed participants to parks and green spaces they had never visited and engaged them physically and mentally.



Mendoza Ball-field Fencing

The Athletics Office upgraded the fencing, netting, and dugouts, and adjusted the field dimensions of the Mendoza Baseball Field located at the Roy Velasquez Sr. Complex. The field is home to the Central Austin Youth League which serves 300+ youth throughout the year.

Community Recreation Centers Ball Field Lights Replacement

New LED Lights Installed at 5 Ball Parks.

Community Recreation Centers replaced the lights at Givens, Parque Zaragoza, South Austin, Martin Field and Rosewood ball fields. The LEDs provide up to 80% reduced energy use which means lower utility bills and less impact on the environment.

\$1.35M Total Cost



THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMS

PARD expanded programs designed to be adaptive and inclusive for adult and senior people with disabilities. Three new programs include Healthy Aging, a program serving the 50+ population, Capital City Explorers, an active outreach program serving young adults, and “The Hangout”, a smaller, more intimate program serving adults of all ages who seek more assistance. ❤️



McBeth Recreation Center

Staff renovated the courtyard at the McBeth Recreation Center.



From April 2020 to June 2021, the McBeth Recreation Center offered virtual programs including social hangouts, creative arts, outdoor education, a walking club, a virtual 5k event, yoga, meditation, fitness programs, and sports activities. After re-opening with modified operations, McBeth hosted an adult summer program, a youth summer camp program, and a 7-week outdoor outreach program offering hiking, cycling, pickleball and outdoor outings.



50 weeks
of Virtual Programming

NATURAL RESOURCES

Wildlife Austin Certifications



Austin re-certified as a Community Wildlife Habitat with the National Wildlife Federation and renewed Austin's Mayors' Monarch Pledge.



Grassland Restoration



Three large ecological restoration projects were completed at the Louis Rene Barrera Indiangrass Wildlife Sanctuary. The Land Management team completed 103 acres of mixed brush mastication, also known as forestry mulching. This work will help shift vegetation to a more grass-dominated structure and allow prescribed fire to be used effectively in the grassland restoration process.

A 4,100-foot burn line and travel corridor was also installed and 6.2 acres of juniper was thinned. This project was a pilot to evaluate the use of cut-and-pile techniques. The intent is to thin small diameter trees thereby increasing resource availability for the remaining trees and improving the drought resiliency of the woodland.



\$9.3M

Operating
Budget

3

Land Restoration
Projects

8,751

Hours of Virtual
Programming

42,303

Individual
Tree Visits

28 Acres

Open Public Gardens



Austin Civilian Conservation Corps

PARD activated the new Austin Civilian Conservation Corps (ACCC) which is designed to help Austinites economically impacted by COVID-19 learn important job skills. PARD partnered with the nonprofit American Youth Works to hire and train crews to restore landscapes and conduct tree maintenance at City parks. These activities help to create more resilient landscapes while providing quality jobs and a living wage. Overall ACCC provided jobs to more than 100 individuals in FY21.

PARD Land Management Plan

The newly created Land Management Program led efforts to hire a consulting team to develop land management strategies and perform a climate vulnerability assessment for about 10,300 acres of natural parkland areas. This initiative will take place in 2022 and will help guide future work on natural areas, while being responsive to the 2019 Wildfire Preparedness Audit and helping to meet goals in the Climate Equity Plan.



FORESTRY

42,303 Individual Tree Visits

1,062 Individual Trees Watered

5,340 Trees Pruned

746 Trees Mulched

252 Tree Inspection Assessments Completed

555 Declining or Dead Trees Removed

2,062,740 Lbs.

 **1,031 Tons of Tree Debris/Brush Recycled**

8.52 Tons 

2,090 Board Feet of Wood Reclaimed
Note: Program was closed for 8 months due to COVID-19.



Forestry Initiative

PARD Forestry initiated a large proactive maintenance project at Barton Springs Pool. It required tremendous skill to access the highest tops and furthest tips of about 40 large, mature trees which needed to be pruned.

Forestry hosted its first ever Saluting Branches event at Austin Memorial Park Cemetery. Saluting Branches is a nonprofit whose mission is to honor service men and women by organizing volunteer tree and landscape care for properties dedicated to veterans. Their crews removed dead trees, cleared deadwood, elevated trees in three sections of the cemetery, and weeded and mulched landscape beds.

HOMELESSNESS

Persistent Homeless Encampments

The volume of 3-1-1 calls related to homeless encampments or people experiencing homelessness increased throughout FY21, from approximately 25 calls per week to almost 90 calls a week. Without enough supportive housing, many individuals experiencing homelessness set up tents on parkland even though camping on parkland is illegal.

When citizen reports are logged with 3-1-1, PARD staff are dispatched for site visits to help connect individuals with services and determine a response level. Over 145 encampment sites (sites containing multiple tents) were entered into PARD's tracking system via 3-1-1 reporting as of September 2021. From May 2021 to July 2021, PARD staff visited 84 encampments multiple times to inventory the area and notify people that camping on parkland is illegal. As of September 2021, approximately 59 of 330 parks were known to have at least one encampment according to 3-1-1 reports.



5.5k Pounds/Week

Of litter abatement by the Department's encampment cleanup contractor, The Other Ones Foundation.



255.6k Pounds

Of litter abated on parkland as part of encampment clean-ups in FY21.



PARK RANGERS

Park Ranger programs teach conservation of habitat as well as Responsible Recreation and Leave No Trace. The focus of every Ranger-led activity is on conserving Austin’s natural spaces and recreating responsibly on public parkland.

Park Rangers focused directed patrols for dogs off leash on several special operation areas including the Mexican American Cultural Center and Longview Park.



106
Directed Patrols

Park Ranger Cadet Program

The Park Ranger Cadet Program works to increase equity in outdoor careers by helping participants gain a sense of their ability to be leaders and stewards for Austin’s parks and communities. Four rangers from the Park Ranger Cadet Program are on staff, about 20% of total Park Ranger staff.



226 
Total Programs

2.9k
Participants

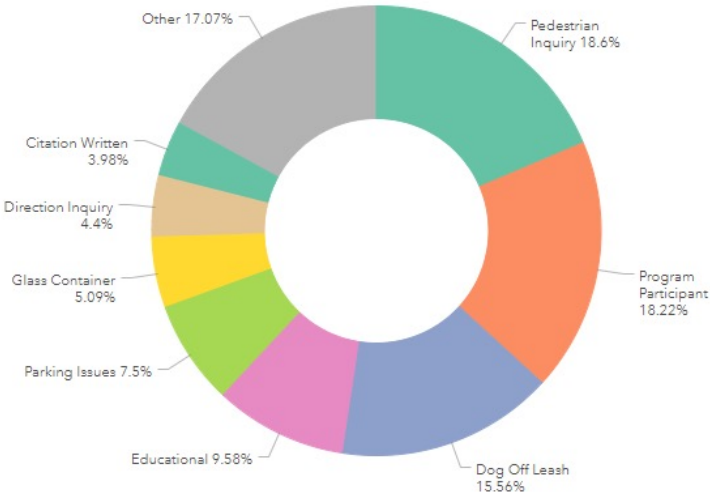


3
Virtual Hikes
with **8.2k** Views
- Copperfield Nature Trail
- Roy G. Guerrero
Colorado River Metro Park
- Dick Nicholas District Park

33
Park Ranger
Videos Created



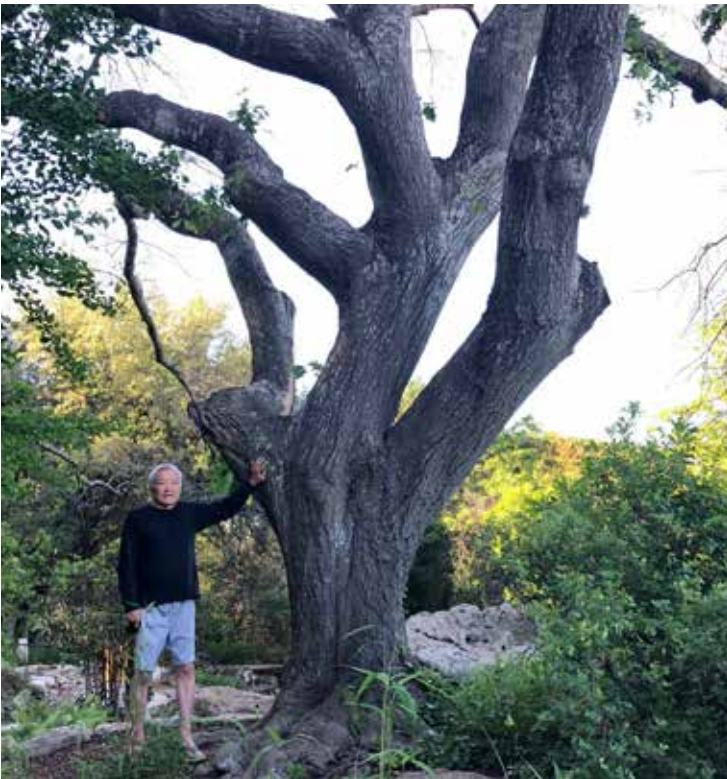
Contact Breakdown by Type



16k
Total Contacts
with the Public
8.6k
Education Contacts
6.6k
Law & Rule Contacts



238
Visits to
Illegal Campsites
on Parkland
111
Follow-up Visits to
Illegal Campsites
on Parkland



ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDEN



In a year when the simple act of remaining open to the public was a challenge, the Zilker Botanical Garden (ZBG) and its ZBG Conservancy partner rallied to innovate processes and methods that allowed it to remain open throughout the year. Hourly visitation limits and contactless sales including online-only tickets for most of the year meant that the Garden could remain open to visitors.

Winter Storm Uri necessitated the removal of several historic trees, including a large Red Oak and several historic Pittosporums in the Taniguchi Japanese Garden. These removals created opportunities for new growth and plantings.



154.6k
Visitors / Total Admissions



\$792k
Gross Revenues



785+
Conservancy Members

COMMUNITY GARDENS



719
Community
Garden Plots
Being on Public Land



30
Community Gardens



7
Senior Gardens

AUSTIN NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER

In partnership with Friends of Austin Science & Nature Center (ANSC), shade structures were installed in the Dino Pit adding a respite from the hot summer sun. The ANSC also welcomed two temporary exhibits, Owl from Art in Public Places and Snake, Rattle and Roll from Fortlandia.

The ANSC survived Winter Storm Uri with very little damage thanks to the efforts of the operations team. More importantly, two members of the team sheltered in place at the ANSC to care for the wildlife. Because of their dedication, all 100 animals survived the extreme conditions and they did not suffer any significant impacts due to the storm or stress.



ANSC was closed to the public most of FY21, only opening to the general public in August 2021. While physically away from the center, ANSC School Programs continued to take place virtually.



1.5k
Youth Participants

144
Adult Participants

1.2k
Participant Hours

ANSC hosted virtual visits with homeschool families allowing them to connect with their peers



392
Youth Participants

826
Participant Hours

ANSC held two, one-day virtual events, Fall Fest and Austin Nature Day as well as Lunch & Learn, an eleven-part series of adult extended learning lectures.

ANSC's Nature's Way Preschool



105
Virtual Classes

1k
Youth Participants

525
Participant Hours

LORRAINE “GRANDMA” CAMACHO ACTIVITY CENTER



5.5k
Adaptive Teen
Virtual Program Hours



409
Senior In-person
Program Hours



The Camacho Center continued offering virtual programs for youth, family, and adults 50+ as well as opening a bicycle repair shop to the public free of charge. May 2021 saw the return of in-person programming at the center. Youth participants and active adults had the chance to see one another and recreate outdoors with trained Camacho staff for the first time in 14 months. The Camacho Center completed building renovations, installed community gardens, and broke ground on future site improvements.



6.2k
Youth Virtual Program Hours

1.9k
Senior Virtual Program Hours

409
Family Virtual Program Hours



22.5k
Youth Outreach
Program Hours

301.5k
Youth Summer Camp
Program Hours



173
Bikes in the bike shop

520
Bike Program Hours



HISTORIC CEMETERIES

Serving the Community

Cemetery Operations manages the grounds maintenance, administration, interments, historic resource conservation, and interpretive programming of City cemeteries.

Restoration

Cemetery crews finished restoring headstones and monuments after the vandalism that took place at Evergreen Cemetery in 2020.



Tree Maintenance

Cemetery staff partnered with the Urban Forestry team to assess, perform maintenance, and remove damaged trees from Winter Storm Uri, then collaborated with both Forestry and Saluting Branches to maintain trees and landscapes at Austin Memorial Park.



Tours & Projects

Cemetery Operations staff provided historic tours and partnered with Travis Audubon Society for bird watching tours at City cemeteries.



Other cemetery projects include paving Austin Memorial Park roads, resetting foot-stones at Oakwood Cemetery, and developing QR Code signage that links to historical biographies which are published on the cemetery's website.



\$3M Operating Budget

602 Space Sales

530 Interments

423 Monuments

5 Historic Buildings

7 Cemeteries
5 Municipal Cemeteries
2 Family Cemeteries
on Parkland

180 Years of History

200+ Acres of Cemetery Grounds

80k+ Graves

365 Open every day

RECOGNITION

Austin Chronicle

Best City Trail:

Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail

Best Golf Course:

Lions Municipal Golf Course

Best Place to Hang With Your Pet:

Zilker Park

Best Swimming Pool:

Barton Springs Pool

Best Summer Travel Spot in Texas

Austin, Mentions Barton Springs Pool

Best City in U.S.

Austin ranked #13

Mentions Barton Springs Pool

15 Best City Parks in America

Treehugger.com

Zilker Park #3

Most Beautiful City Parks in the USA

Zilker Park Ranked #10



AWARDS

American Institute of Architects

Commendation for Affordable Sustainability

Montopolis Recreation and Community Center

American Planning Association

National Planning Excellence Award Our Parks, Our Future Long-Range Plan

Austin Energy Green Building (AEGB)

AEGB 4-Star Rating Waterloo Park

City-County Communications & Marketing Association (3CMA)

Silver Circle Award Our Parks, Our Future Long-Range Plan

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)

LEED Gold Certification Montopolis Recreation and Community Center

National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors

Award of Distinction 2020 Zilker Tree Lighting Special

Preservation Texas

Honor Award Shipe Park Shelter House Rehabilitation

Texas Association of Municipal Information Officers

Award of Excellence Parks and Recreation Dept 2019 Annual Report

Award of Honor Electronic Report Our Parks, Our Future Long-Range Plan

Award of Honor Public Service Announcement for Bark Rangers: Poop Offender
Leave No Trace Awareness Campaign

Texas Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects

Merit Award Walter E Long Metro Park Vision Plan

Honor Award Austin Parks and Recreation Dept
Our Parks, Our Future Long Range Plan

Texas Recreation and Park Society

Lone Star Legacy Park Award Wooldridge Square

Urban Land Institute Austin

Best Public Place Montopolis Recreation and Community Center

Best Project Design Alliance Children's Garden





austintexas.gov/parks