



AUSTIN PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR



AWARDS

American Institute of Architects (AIA) Austin
2022 Design Award Commendation: Craft
Waterloo Park Family Pavilion

2022 Design Award of Excellence
Treehouse at Pease Park

2022 Design Award of Merit
Kingsbury Commons at Pease Park

American Institute of Architects (AIA) Houston
2022 Design Award: Divine Detail
Waterloo Park Family Pavilion

**American Planning Association
Texas Chapter (APA)**
Public Outreach Achievement Award - Gold
Austin Parks and Recreation Dept:
Our Parks, Our Future Long Range Plan

Austin Green Award
Playground and Fitness
Colony Park District Park

Central Texas Masonry Contractors Association
Golden Trowel Awards
CleanScapes for Waterloo Park
CleanScapes for Kingsbury Commons at Pease Park

National Association of Landscape Professionals
2022 Silver Award of Excellence
Commercial Landscape Management
CleanScapes for Waterloo Park

National Register of Historic Places
Parque Zaragoza Neighborhood Park

Preservation Austin
Special Recognition for Education
Oakwood Cemetery Chapel: All Together Here

Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS)
Park Development Innovation Award
Walnut Creek Metro Park Playground Revitalization
Lone Star Legacy Award
Givens District Park
Lone Star Programming Award
Expansion of Therapeutic Adult Day Programming
at Alamo Recreation Center

Texas Society of Architects
2022 Design Award
Waterloo Park Family Pavilion

Urban Land Institute Austin
2022 Impact Award
Winner Best Public Place
Waterloo Park

2022 Impact Award
Finalist for Most Influential Project, Best Project
Waterloo Park

2022 Impact Award
Finalist Best Public Place
Walnut Creek Metro Park Playground Revitalization

RECOGNITION

Austin Chronicle
Best City Trail:
Ann and Roy Butler Hike-and-Bike Trail
at Lady Bird Lake

Best Golf Course:
Butler Pitch & Putt

Best Kids and Family Wild Card:
Treehouse Observation Pod
at Pease Park's Kingsbury Commons

Best Neighborhood Park With a Big Slide:
Balcones District Park

Best Park Reboot:
Waterloo Park

Best Place to Hang With Your Pet:
Zilker Park

Best Playground:
Zilker Park

Best Premium Playground:
Alliance Children's Garden

Best Swimming Pool:
Barton Springs Pool

Austin Monthly
Best of Austin Park Renovation:
Waterloo Park

Cosmopolitan
The Best (and Most Instagrammable) Hikes in Austin, Texas
Mentions Anne and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail

ParkScore
Ranks Austin 2nd in Texas, 39th in the US

Urban Land Institute (ULI) Austin
Impact Award for Best Public Place Waterloo Park

Thrillist
Austin's 10 Best Swimming Pools Deep Eddy



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2022

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Front Cover:
Event honoring Joan Means Khabele at Barton Springs Pool.
Pictured, Inonge Khabele, Ms. Khabele's daughter.
More on page 59.

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.

Executive Leadership

Parks and Recreation Department

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

Jodi Jay, M.B.A., CPRP, Assistant 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

Laura Cottam Sajbel, Chair

Sarah Faust, Vice Chair

Nancy Barnard, Board Member

Richard DePalma, Board Member

Anna Di Carlo, Board Member

Katheryn Flowers, Board Member

Lisa Hugman, Board Member

Dawn Lewis, 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 the Parks and Recreation Department, we create community in many ways – through diverse programs, accessible public facilities and open green spaces where people can be active, relax and explore their interests. Our dedicated staff preserve, protect and improve the parks system by maintaining parks, renovating amenities and creating new places for Austin's growing population to recreate or simply reflect. Mindful of the past, we work towards a brighter future and seek to achieve a more inclusive experience for all Austinites by putting equity at the forefront of operational decisions and by continuing to grow our relationships within the Austin community.

Laura Cottam Sajbel

Chair

Austin Parks and Recreation Board

Austin is beloved for its parks and natural spaces. From the sparkling waters of Barton Springs to quiet trails lined by trees, our parks host picnics, runs, music, festivals, water activities, and increasingly connect our city across an expanding network of trails. Green spaces provide shade and space to combat climate change, making our environment and our community healthier. Our priorities are to preserve and protect the natural parklands and ecology that make Austin so livable and to focus on how we can best serve residents and visitors. We are working to increase access to parks and to formally recognize underserved communities who have contributed to our city's history. We appreciate the hard work of staff, board members, partners and friends throughout the community who support Austin Parks and Recreation.

Equity & Inclusion Program in the Office of the Director

PARD hired its inaugural Equity and Inclusions Program Manager in October 2021 to provide leadership, guidance, and insight on equity and inclusion to improve the Department and, ultimately, the quality of life for all Austinites. In the first year, the manager met with internal and external stakeholders to gather input on PARD's efforts to prioritize around equity and inclusion.

Several themes were identified around these issues including leadership development and the need to work more collaboratively with other divisions and departments to better serve communities that have been historically marginalized.

In addition to the organizational development work, the Austin Civilian Conservation Corps program, moved under the Equity and Inclusion Program Manager in April 2022 because of the program's mission and vision prioritizing racial equity.



Austin Civilian Conservation Corp

Austin Civilian Conservation Corps (ACCC) prioritizes equity in green workforce development and expands the narrative of green vocations. ACCC is hosted by PARD and works with participating City Departments alongside external partners.

Program participants worked in areas related to natural resources, forestry and land management, green stormwater infrastructure, environmental education and programming, digital media, marketing, museums and cultural centers.

ACCC collaborated with the UT School of Architecture's Community and Regional Planning (CRP) program for the Photovoice Exhibition in May, then in August of 2022, a faculty and student team from the CRP program released a new report, Expanding Pathways to Quality Green Jobs in Austin's Growing Green Economy, that analyzes the green economy and green jobs in Austin. The report shows that green activity and jobs represent a major equitable economic development opportunity for the Austin region.



PARD BY THE NUMBERS

The Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) has been the steward of the City of Austin's public lands since 1928. As such, we protect and maintain parkland and urban forests.

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.

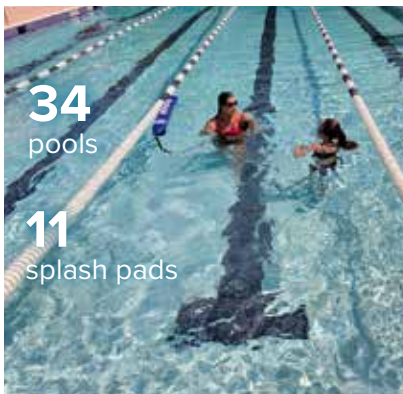
The park system grew by 33 new parks this year thanks to the Parkland Dedication Ordinance (PLD) and 2018 Parkland Acquisition Bond funding. PLD directly improved Austin's overall park access by 2%, equal to about 20,000 residents who are now within walking distance of a park.



265
miles of trail



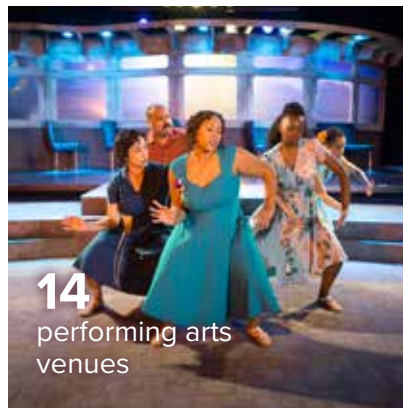
19,934
acres of
green space
348
parks



34
pools
11
splash pads



13
off-leash
areas



14
performing arts
venues



6
golf
courses
6
disc golf
courses



45
volleyball
courts



107
historic buildings



3
Museums



5
cultural centers



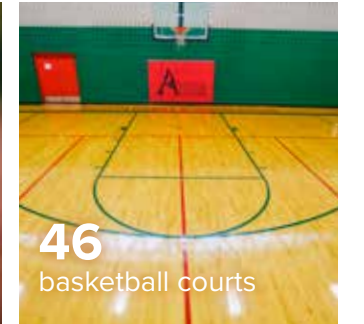
189
playgrounds



25
recreation and
senior centers



86
tennis courts



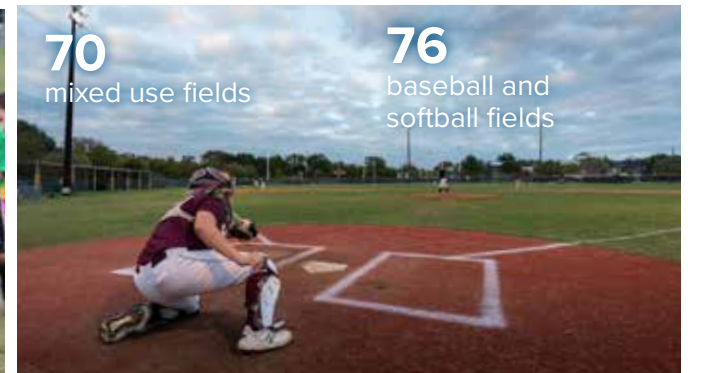
46
basketball courts



5
historic
cemeteries



25
soccer
fields



70
mixed use fields

76
baseball and
softball fields



CITY OF AUSTIN STRATEGIC DIRECTION



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:

- ✓ Align accessible and diverse programs and services with community needs and interests.
- ✓ Expand and improve access to parks and facilities for all.
- ✓ Activate and enhance urban park spaces to provide flexible and diverse programming.
- ✓ Ensure that the parks system preserves recreational and natural spaces to serve as a respite from urban life.

The PAR Compass outlines the mission, goals and key performance indicators.

These outcomes have indicator categories that are measured annually.

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



Look for these icons throughout this report to see which programs, projects, and investments directly support City and Departmental goals.



Indicator Category A.

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

8%

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

67.3k

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

97%

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

70.7k

CLL.E.2 – Number of participants in City-offered lifelong learning events, activities and resources



Indicator Category C.

Accessibility to quality parks, trails, and recreational opportunities

Top 10 Indicator

68%

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)

Ranked
#39

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

36%

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

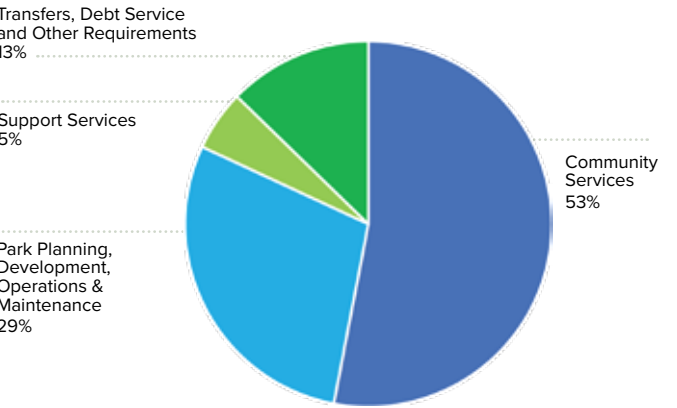


FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FISCAL YEAR
2022

Funding by Program

Community Services	\$56,443,169
Park Planning, Development, Operations & Maintenance	\$30,784,360
Support Services	\$5,685,718
Transfers, Debt Service, and Other Requirements	\$13,536,130
Total Budget by Program	\$106,449,377



Revenue by Source

Charges for Services/Goods	\$12,681,105
Use of Money and Property	\$11,505
Other Revenue	\$922,083
Other Revenue	\$922,083
Total Actual Revenue	\$15,474,066

FY22 EXPENDITURES

Capital Projects by Category

Aquatic	\$1,807,126
Athletics	\$127,395
Buildings and Improvements	\$11,513,583
Cemeteries	\$196,848
Golf	\$1,153,793
Land Acquisition	\$12,760,059
Parks	\$7,512,681
Plans and Studies	\$282,381
Playscapes	\$778,472
Trails	\$893,670
Total Projects by Category	\$37,026,007

Grants

Capital Improvement Projects	\$2,735,045
General Fund	\$132,871
Total Grants	\$2,867,916

Personnel

Personnel Full-Time	769
Grant Full-Time	-
Total Full Time Staff	769

ASSET MANAGEMENT



Preserving Assets and Facilities



The Asset Management team develops and maintains data management infrastructure to plan for the life cycle management of its assets. This past year, the team launched a new online hub for geospatial public information data about the Department's Assets, Capital Improvements Projects, Historical Resources, Mowing, Museums and Cultural Programs, and Park Rangers.

austin-parks-and-recreation-austin.hub.arcgis.com



Asset Management also prioritized, allocated and tracked \$36.2 million in Department spending, including \$21.6 million from the 2018 Bond Program, on rehabilitation and improvements to parks and facilities, parkland acquisitions and new development.



On an ongoing basis, the team trains new employees and workgroups on the Department's asset management system and collaborates on continued integration with Austin 3-1-1.

SUPPORT SERVICES

CONTRACTS/GRANTS/PROCUREMENT

Non-Profits

The Department fostered relationships with 63 nonprofits to provide services ranging from shared-use facilities and resources with other governmental agencies, to providing arts instruction at Senior Centers.

Concessions

PARD has nine concessions that provided \$1,130,614 in revenue through July of 2022. Although two concessions, the Zilker Cafe and the Zilker Eagle, are temporarily closed, plans are underway for re-openings.

Due to the ongoing Zilker Park Vision Planning process, PARD extended two concession contracts. Zilker Park Boat Rentals will continue for an additional two years and the Rowing Dock for an additional year. Since the Rowing Dock contract will expire in April of 2023, PARD will initiate a solicitation for a watercraft concession at the Rowing Dock location beginning in September of 2022.



Lake Capacity Study

In response to Parks and Recreation Board and Environmental Commission recommendations received as part of the Annual Concession Report, PARD contracted Huston-Tillotson University (HTU), specifically the Business Administration, Natural Sciences, and Environmental Justice Departments, to conduct a Lake Capacity Study. The purpose of this contract is to work collaboratively with HTU to define lake capacity, determine the capacity of Lady Bird Lake (LBL) based on this definition, to make recommendations regarding safe recreational use of the lake and to report on the current and future environmental impact of watercraft recreational activities on LBL. The implementation timeline for the study is May 2022 through December 2022. Recommendations, based on the study’s findings, will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Board, the Environmental Commission, and the City Council in December of 2022. In April of 2023, PARD will initiate a solicitation for a watercraft concession at the Rowing Dock location beginning in September of 2022.

Grant Funding

The Senior Transportation Service Program provides rides to congregate meal locations, door-to-door trips to requested destinations, and group travel. The mission is to create mobility solutions involving transportation services for people 60 years of age and older and to improve the quality of these services.

PARD continues to benefit from a Senior Transportation Grant that provides \$96,000 in funding for a senior transportation service created in conjunction with the CAPCOG Senior Congregate Meal program to assist with transportation to PARD meal locations. The program also received a new FTA 5310 Senior Transportation Grant in the amount of \$155,482 to help offset operating expenses.

The Kids Cafe grant continues to provide \$33,340 to reimburse costs for self-prep summer camp and after-school meal program at Turner Roberts, Dove Springs, and Montopolis Recreation Centers.

ACCOUNTING SERVICES AND FINANCE

Accounts Payables

The Accounts Payables team collaborated with Information Systems Management staff to redesign a new invoice system to improve invoice tracking, reporting, work assignments, and record retention. The team also networked virtually with accounting/finance staff at other COA departments and provided individual training via Teams. Accounts Payables staff ensured that the Department consistently maintained a 19-day Accounts Payable turnaround time.

Accounts Receivables

Accounts Receivables staff assisted the Aquatic Division with a process for collecting pay station money and established a new bank account for deposits. The team also entered all cemetery sales orders into QuickBooks in order to match reconciliations with AIMS. Overall the team planned in-person cash audits and reconciliations in a timely manner, handled monthly cash receipts by the close deadlines set by the Comptroller’s Office and provided online refunds within a two-week turnaround when necessary.

Finance

The Finance team finished creating PARD’s Performance Measures (PM) SharePoint database and dashboards and completed the redesign of the PM SharePoint Site. They also created and provided timely support for FEMA/HSEM COVID-19 supporting documents on a monthly basis to meet the Comptroller’s Office deadline. Furthermore, Finance staff complied 100% of the time in meeting the Budget Office reporting deadlines. Each member of the finance team attended an online training on equity and inclusion. The team then introduced the process of ‘budgeting with an equity lens’ to the Department during the January 2022 budget kickoff sessions.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT

PARD’s in-house IT unit Information Systems Management (ISM) provides support for recreation management software, custom applications, general information technology, performance measures and business systems analysis. ISM has been working to implement technology that works for all, digitizing PARD processes, and helping to mobilize staff with technology.

 **558**
Tech Issues
Resolved

Internally developed
and implemented 8
applications.

 **\$609k**
Tech Purchasing

Assisted in the
creation of 5+
analytics reports



HUMAN RESOURCES

Employment/Compensation Team

Staff hired over 170 regular positions and nearly 1,000 temporary positions during a difficult hiring environment.

170 New Full-Time Staff Hires

973 Temporary Hires

57 Staff Promotions

4 Military/Veteran Hires

6 Hiring Fairs Attended

Employee Relations Team

Two new Human Resources Advisor Seniors joined the Employee Relations Team. The new Advisor Seniors were integral in closing over 90 employee relations matters in only eight months.

Safety

There were 134 reported employee injuries, 10% fewer than the last year.

84 Preventable Injuries

50 Non-Preventable Injuries

With supervisors and employees communicating and working together to improve workplace safety, PARD can be a safer workplace and a superior safety culture.



Safety staff delivered 166 safety courses, offering a total of 508 training hours. PARD staff accumulated 6,058 total training hours, a 46% improvement in safety training hours over the previous year.

PARD Safety partnered with Parks Partners to deliver four safety training courses: Incident Reporting, Safety Hazards of the Urban Environment, De-Escalation, and Active Shooter Awareness.

The Safety team received the "2021 Defensive Drive Course Training Center of the Year" award from the National Safety Council. This award recognizes organizations who have made valuable contributions to eliminating preventable deaths.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagement

Staff connected directly with more than 3,500 community members through 98 virtual, in-person, and hybrid community engagement events or activities. The team encouraged relationship-building and increased decision-making for more than 25 projects, programs and initiatives.

Language Access

Through increased prioritization of funding and focus, PARD provided language access through interpretation at more than 180 events with a significant focus on Spanish-speaking and Mandarin-speaking community members. The Department translated more than 100 documents, posters, surveys, and signs to increase public connection and understanding for all.

The Department's Language Access Committee continues to identify ways to increase language access through the allocation of resources based on greatest need and highest impact. The Committee is developing training for all PARD facilities, making administration of Language Access smoother, and creating general policy and procedures for PARD.



PLANNING OUR PARKS

VISION PLANS COMPLETED



Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park Vision Plan

The Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park Vision Plan was adopted in the spring of 2022. The Vision Plan reflects the planning values and priorities that were developed through a series of community engagement opportunities, including four online surveys, three small group discussions, three community meetings, and two pop-up events at the park. The vision plan recommends a phased implementation of new and enhanced park amenities such as play-scapes, shared-use paths, new native plantings, and pond improvements.

Ridgeline Neighborhood Park

The concept plan for Ridgeline Neighborhood Park, an undeveloped ten-acre parcel in northwest Austin located near Lakeline Mall in the Buttercup Creek watershed, was adopted in 2022. The land was acquired by the City of Austin in 1987 as parkland dedication. The Department held two virtual community meetings and two public surveys to collect feedback on the plan which will include a new right-of-way sidewalk, entry and wayfinding signs, an ADA compliant concrete trail, seating, and trash receptacles. Park improvements are currently in design with construction anticipated in 2024.

East Williamson Creek Greenbelt

Donde Corre El Agua, or Where the Water Runs, is a community-initiated proposal to improve parkland in the Williamson Creek Greenbelt. Community members reached out to Go Austin, Vamos Austin (GAVA), Urban Roots, and the Community and Regional Planning program at the University of Texas at Austin to draft a vision plan to transform a section of the East Williamson Creek Greenbelt into a safe and welcoming park for their neighbors. Interviews and structured walks through the park provided opportunities for community members to share their experiences of the space, and photography, mental mapping, drawing and participatory design methods helped facilitate the proposal. The final report was completed in the summer of 2022.

Dog Off-Leash Area Guidelines Update

The Park Planning Division completed an update to the City of Austin's Dog Off-Leash Area (DOLA) Guidelines. First adopted in 2010, the DOLA Guidelines provide guidance to City staff and developers who are planning, designing, renovating, or constructing future DOLAs. The guidelines also outline best management practices for PARD and community partners to ensure a safe, equitable, and sustainable system of DOLAs. After an extensive review of current off-leash policies in peer cities, PARD identified and incorporated many contemporary guidelines and best practices into the new document.

VISION PLANS IN PROGRESS

Zilker Metropolitan Park

The Zilker Metropolitan Park Vision Plan is a community-driven planning process to establish direction for the park's growth. The project kicked off in February 2021 and a draft plan document was released to the community in the fall of 2022. The plan will identify recommendations for restoration and future enhancements concerning the park's ecology, operations, environmental sustainability, historical and cultural preservation, equity, inclusivity, and accessibility. A robust stakeholder and community engagement effort has included two series of pop-up events in all 10 City districts, four virtual community-wide meetings, five surveys, and more than two dozen small group discussions. A final draft incorporating community input is anticipated in 2023.



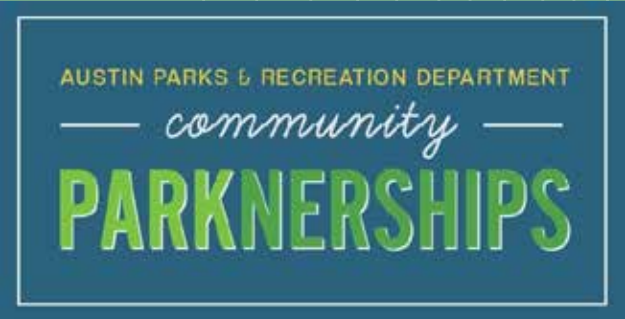
Zilker Shuttle

PARD piloted a free weekend shuttle service from the One Texas Center Parking Garage to Zilker Park that ran June 25 to September 5, 2022. The goal of the program was to help determine if park visitors would take advantage of the service with the ultimate goal of trying to lessen the parking demands at Zilker Park. Recommendations from this pilot are being studied as part of the Zilker Park vision planning process. About 550 people took advantage of the shuttle service. The Department plans to continue the shuttle next year. Comments from the public praised the convenience, shaded parking, minimal wait time between shuttles, and friendly staff.

Bolm District Park

PARD has initiated the Bolm District Park Vision Plan project and funding has been secured through the 2018 Bond Program. The project is anticipated to start in the fall of 2022 with community engagement starting in the first half of 2023. The vision plan process is anticipated to take about a year.





The Trail Conservancy Park Operations and Maintenance Agreement

In June 2022, The Trail Conservancy (TTC) and PARD finalized negotiations and signed a Park Operations and Maintenance Agreement (POMA) with the City of Austin, formalizing the partnership. With this agreement, TTC will ultimately become the primary partner and steward, responsible for operations and maintenance of the more than 200 acres of parkland on which the Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail sits.



“Pop Up” Programming Pilot

The PARKnerships “Pop Up” pilot program centers around new nature play features initiated by communities that have been historically marginalized by the City. The goal is to grow relationships within these communities and provide support and programming opportunities to existing Adopt-A-Park groups. Each site has corresponding stewardship and partner groups scheduled to join at least one activation. These low-barrier “Pop Up” pilot activities encourage PARKners to replicate programming and insert opportunities relevant to their neighborhood needs. So far, the program has attracted over 75 participants and 6 non-profit or Adopt-A-Park groups to collaborate and share information about Pop-Ups.



COMMUNITY ACTIVATED PARK PROJECTS

The Community Activated Park Projects (CAPP) Program provides a pathway for neighbors, non-profits, community groups and partners to plan and implement park improvement projects. This past year PARD received 91 CAPP proposals and collaborated with 56 different neighborhood groups, community members and nonprofits.

Kendra Page Neighborhood Park

Kendra Page Neighborhood Park is a 15-acre park located in southeast Austin. The Friends of Kendra Page received an Austin Parks Foundation grant for trail and playground improvements including nature play. The nature play area was completed in June 2022. The playground amenities, created using natural materials, include play tables, log seating, and various climbing features.



Mary Moore Searight Metropolitan Park

Following a nearly 25-year legacy of trail stewardship in the Austin area, the Austin Ridge Riders proposed strategic ecological trail improvements to Mary Moore Searight Metro Park in South Austin. Improvements included vegetation trimming, improving drainage, and re-covering tree roots exposed in heavy traffic areas.



COMMUNITY ACTIVATED PARK PROJECTS



East Williamson Creek Greenbelt

Donde Corre El Agua, or Where the Water Runs, began when community members reached out to Go Austin/Vamos Austin (GAVA), Urban Roots, and the Community and Regional Planning program at the University of Texas at Austin. Together they initiated a vision planning process for the Williamson Creek Greenbelt parkland area designated in an old floodplain. When deciding what to propose for the park, Dove Springs community members mapped the area, documented residents' perspectives on the park, engaged in multi-generational dialogue, and designed prototypes for murals and interpretive signs.



Cook School Park

Cook Elementary School Park proposed the installation of garden beds to create a habitat for Monarch butterflies and have a space for all students to engage with nature, an effort that contributes to the Cities Connecting Children to Nature initiative. With the help of PARD and Austin Independent School District (AISD), and funding from the National Wildlife Federation's Monarch Heroes Program, three gardens were installed at Cook School Park in the spring of 2022. Students and teachers alike continue to use these gardens as a space to connect with nature and further hands-on education.



Mary Moore Searight Metro Park

Following a nearly 25-year legacy of trail stewardship in the Austin area, the Austin Ridge Riders proposed strategic ecological trail improvements to Mary Moore Searight Metro Park in South Austin. Improvements included vegetation trimming, improving drainage, and re-covering tree roots exposed in heavy traffic areas.



Civitan Mini Pitch



In partnership with Austin FC and the U.S. Soccer Foundation, PARD created a new soccer mini-pitch for the Austin community at Civitan Neighborhood Park. The project was initiated through the U.S. Soccer Foundation's Safe Places to Play program, which focuses on creating safe places for children to play soccer in their neighborhoods by transforming underutilized facilities into mini-pitches. The Civitan mini-pitch was completed in the fall of 2021.

Andrews School Park



Longhorn Sports Properties submitted a CAPP proposal for Andrews School Park with the goal of resurfacing the basketball court and replacing basketball court goals with new ones modeled after the Moody Center. Andrews School Park was identified as a site of high need through the Cities Connecting Children to Nature - Green School Park assessment. The court resurfacing was completed in August of 2022, with the help of the AISD, PARD staff, and external partners.



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.

Nature Play Guidelines

CCCN published Nature Play Guidelines, a new document guiding City staff and partners on the best practices for the design, installation, maintenance, and management of nature play.

New Nature Play Spaces

PARD installed three nature play spaces, in partnership with Austin Parks Foundation, at MLK Station, Kendra Page, and Grand Meadow Neighborhood Parks. PARD also activated Walnut Creek Metro Park’s nature play area in partnership with Earth Native Wilderness School through free “Nature Days” public programming.

Green School Park Stewardship Document

The goal of the Green School Park Program is to create a network of school parks that provide schools, and the surrounding community, the opportunity to learn from, steward, and play in nature. In 2022, PARD partnered with AISD to develop guidelines for pursuing and maintaining Green School.

Other Notable Accomplishments

CCCN staff led informational sessions at both the Texas Children in Nature Network Summit and the National League of Cities/Children in Nature Conference. The Department received a total of just over 1600 signatures for the Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights and leveraged \$364,394 in funding for CCCN efforts.



PARTNER ACTIVATION & STEWARDSHIP

The City of Austin’s Parks and Recreation Department works with various partner groups such as Shoal Creek Conservancy, Pease Park Conservancy, Keep Austin Beautiful, The Trail Conservancy, and more to activate parkland around Austin.

Activations included movies and concerts in the parks, farmer’s markets, Austin-wide parkland volunteer days, and more!

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



PARKLAND DEDICATION AND LAND ACQUISITIONS



PLD for Commercial Development Amendment

In accordance with recommendations and resolutions passed by City Council and the Parks and Recreation Board, PARD staff led the creation of a new, progressive parkland dedication requirement for commercial developments. This new requirement will account for the impact our workforce has on parkland, further strengthening and improving our parks system as Austin remains a sought-after location for business. It is anticipated that this new requirement will allow us to close critical gaps in our greenbelts and generate an estimated \$2.7 million in annual revenue to fund land acquisition and park improvements. These new requirements will help to ensure that the city's park system keeps pace with the growth in the workforce - maintaining a high quality of life for workers and residents alike.



Land Acquisitions

The Department expended \$4.9 million in parkland dedication fees, \$9.1 million from the 2018 Parkland Acquisition Bond, and required on-site dedications to acquire or expand 14 parks across the city with over 45 new acres of dedicated parkland and 8 acres of new trail/recreational easements. Notable acquisitions include Bull Creek Bluff Neighborhood Park, Jamestown Neighborhood Park, and Moccasin Neighborhood Park.





Learn more about
Parkland Dedication:

www.AustinTexas.gov/ATXparkland



Bull Creek Bluff Neighborhood Park

This park was expanded by 10 acres on the low side of Bull Creek, adding to an earlier acquisition for a combined 20-acre premier park including a majestic, 100-foot limestone cliff. The park is currently open to the public with limited access at 6309 Spicewood Springs Rd. In the fall of 2022, PARD began preparations to the parkland for future development.



Moccasin Neighborhood Park

This five-acre park will join a larger piece of Williamson Creek West to create a 16-acre destination, with a beautiful natural pool, the result of an old dam on the site. The acquisition includes the potential for active recreation among the mature pecan trees encircling flat grassland.

DEVELOPING OUR PARKS & FACILITIES

Seaholm Intake Facility Phase 1 Rehabilitation

The first phase of the rehabilitation of the Seaholm Intake Facility was completed in the fall of 2022. The facility is part of the Seaholm Power Plant National Historic Register District, which has a strong civic presence in the cityscape of downtown Austin and showcases a unique period of American Art Deco municipal architecture and Public Works engineering. It was decommissioned in 1996 after the Seaholm Power Plant discontinued operation in 1989. The project consisted of a series of interventions to make the facility safe and inhabitable for small programs and events, restore its iconic character-defining features and update the building for code-compliant occupancy. After lying dormant for over 30 years, the facility will be available for internal City of Austin events and partnership events with the Trail Conservancy.



Dougherty Arts Center

In 2022, the Dougherty Arts Center project progressed into the permitting and construction document phases. The proposed facility design includes over 50,000 square feet of programmable arts space, including two theaters and fine arts studios supporting ceramics, industrial arts, photography, painting, and drawing programs for both children and adults. The building's location at Butler Shores Metro Park will provide a natural extension of cultural arts programs offered at the adjacent ZACH Theatre while also restoring the parkland immediately to the west for passive recreational use and enhanced trail connectivity.



Waterloo Greenway Confluence

This 13-acre project includes new trails and bridges as well as a full ecological restoration of Waller Creek between Lady Bird Lake and 4th Street. Confluence (formerly known as Creek Delta) is being developed via the City's partnership with the Waterloo Greenway Conservancy and is co-sponsored by the Watershed Protection Department. The project was awarded \$9M in federal funding earlier this year through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Environmental Infrastructure (EI) program. It is the first project in Texas to receive money via the EI program, which was authorized through the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The project is also pursuing SITES Gold Certification through The Sustainable SITES Initiative, a certification system that prioritizes protecting and enhancing ecosystems. Construction begins in 2023.



Asian American Resource Center Phase 2 Improvements

This project is in the design phase and seeks to utilize available funding to deliver an early phase of work that supports the future build-out of the theater building. The project team, City staff and community champions provided numerous opportunities for feedback on the project thus far which was utilized to develop a design truly capable of serving the needs of the Asian American community and beyond.



Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Phase 2 Improvements

Joint Venture Miró Rivera Architects + Tatiana Bilbao ESTUDIO, City of Austin staff and Rogers O'Brien Construction worked collaboratively to develop a design for the facility's expansion and renovation that will meet the needs of the growing community and be in line with the available funds. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held in December 2022 with construction completion anticipated in 2025.



Barton Springs Bathhouse

Design work is coming together for the rehabilitation of the 1947 Barton Springs Bathhouse which will encompass extensive renovations to serve the nearly one million annual visitors to the pool. The project is guided by the 2008 Barton Springs Pool Vision Plan. The project includes the restoration of the rotunda and dressing areas, interior and exterior finishes, ADA accessibility, automated entry improvements to the Bathhouse and the Barton Springs Pool, updated plumbing and drainage systems, structural stabilization and flood resistance improvements, redesign of the Sheffield Education Center/SPLASH! Exhibit, relocated and expanded Aquatics facilities within the Bathhouse and parking lot improvements. The project will complete the permitting and construction documents phases in 2023.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Parque Zaragoza Recognized for Historical Significance



The Historic Preservation and Tourism Program produced a documentary short about the history of Parque Zaragoza in advance of the park's 90th Anniversary Celebration sponsored by Amigos de Parque Zaragoza. Established in 1931, Parque Zaragoza serves as a cornerstone of the Mexican American and Tejano community in East Austin. Throughout its history, many of the largest Cinco de Mayo and Diez y Seis celebrations in Austin took place there. Highlights would include parades, barbecues, live music, and dancing. Cinco de Mayo commemorates the park's namesake, General Ignacio Zaragoza Seguín. In May 2022, the park was officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Downs Field Grandstand Renovation



The renovation of Downs Field Grandstands was completed and celebrated in June. The rehabilitation preserved the grandstands' historic architectural features and included structural upgrades to replace the roof framing and reinforce the steel columns and footings. The project also addressed lead-based paint abatement and remediation.



Haskell House



The 1887 Hezekiah Haskell House is an Austin Landmark and Recorded Texas Historic Landmark located in Clarksville, itself a Freedom Colony listed to the National Register of Historic Places. In 2019, Clarksville Community Development Corporation (CCDC), which provides stewardship of the site, received a grant from the Economic Development Department's Heritage Tourism Division to rehabilitate the House. With a new lease on life, the Hezekiah Haskell House will now be open to visitors twice a month starting in September 2022.

Eastwoods Park Lone Star Ceremony



On June 11, 2022, the Eastwoods Neighborhood Association and the Department dedicated a Juneteenth Interpretative Sign and a Lone Star Legacy Award Plaque at Eastwoods Neighborhood Park. The park is notable as the site of Wheeler's Grove, one of Austin's earliest Emancipation Parks where African Americans would celebrate Juneteenth. One of Austin's first public parks, Eastwoods was formally opened to the public in 1930. The Lone Star Legacy designation was awarded by the Texas Recreation and Park Association in 2020.

Reinterment of Oakwood Burials



During the rehabilitation of the Oakwood Chapel in 2016, it was discovered that the Chapel had been constructed over grave sites. On November 17, 2021, with careful monitoring by archaeologists, PARD successfully reinterred all 36 displaced individuals at Oakwood Cemetery. On November 29, 2021, the Oakwood Cemetery Chapel hosted Interfaith Action of Central Texas to conduct a blessing for the reburial of the men, women, and children found during the Chapel's rehabilitation.

**Dedication of
Volma Overton Sr. Beach**

On June 11, the Department held a ceremony to officially dedicate Volma Overton Sr. Beach at Town Lake Metropolitan Park. Formally known as Lamar Beach, the park was formally renamed by Austin City Council in early 2022. Volma Overton Sr. (1924-2005) was a highly significant and influential Austin leader. A World War II veteran and graduate of Huston-Tillotson University, Overton served as president of the Austin NAACP 1963-1983 and he participated in the March on Washington in 1963 and the Selma to Montgomery March in 1965. He received the Arthur B. DeWitty award in 1967 and was honored for his contribution to Civil Rights by the LBJ School of Public Affairs in 2004.



**Givens District Park
Named Lone Star Legacy Park**

Givens District Park was named a 2022 Lone Star Legacy Park by the Texas Recreation and Park Society. A Lone Star Legacy Park is a park that holds special prominence in the local community and the state of Texas. In the summer of 1959, Givens District Park opened to the public as the second segregated public park in Austin which was seen as a huge victory for East Austin since the community had been advocating for more parkland there. The park quickly became a hot spot for African Americans in Austin and the traditions that started in the park became beloved, many lasting throughout the years. The Givens Park community celebrated this achievement during the Givens Park Festival of Recognition and Remembrance in September of 2022 to commemorate the special history of the park and kick off the pool renovation project.



SUSTAINABILITY

Recycling Implementation

PARD completed Phase II (District Parks) of the Recycling Implementation Plan, adding paired landfill trash and recycling receptacles in outdoor park spaces. PARD began Phase III (Neighborhood Parks) in the summer of 2022 with parks prioritized for new receptacle installs according to an equity framework. This phase will also add recycling receptacles to greenbelts, outdoor spaces at recreation centers and senior centers, and outdoor event spaces. Smaller pocket parks are moving to “Pack It In, Pack It Out” spaces with no receptacles unless they have amenities (playscapes or picnic pavilions) that require it. In line with Citywide Circular Economy goals, PARD staff works with other City staff on a Materials Reuse team to ensure appropriate reuse for items such as concrete planters or surplus flagstone.

Climate Equity Plan

PARD staff partnered with Office of Sustainability on the new public-facing Climate Equity Plan Implementation Dashboard to provide status updates and information about the many PARD initiatives that advance the goals of the Climate Equity Plan. The dashboard is organized into five areas related to community-wide emissions: Sustainable Buildings, Transportation and Land Use, Transportation Electrification, Food and Product Consumption, and Natural Systems.

**Resilience Hubs
Network Initiative**

PARD continued to participate on an interdepartmental team focused on creating a network of trusted Resilience Hubs that strengthen community ties and provide basic needs when disasters strike. Due to their presence and visibility within the community, PARD’s Recreation Centers are a natural fit to support and serve these functions. In September of 2022, the Office of Sustainability led a community engagement process to raise awareness about the campaign and better understand the role these PARD facilities play for residents. Future steps for the program include providing physical infrastructure like solar panels and redundant power sources at select PARD sites to bolster a facility’s resilience during a climate-related stressor.



As of fall 2022, 100% of metropolitan parks, 100% of district parks, and 32% (31 of 98) neighborhood parks have recycling receptacles paired and alongside the outdoor landfill trash receptacles.

METROPOLITAN & DISTRICT PARK PROJECTS

COMPLETED



Holly Shores / Edward Rendon Sr. Park at Festival Beach Lakefront Trail

The new Holly Shores Lakefront Trail celebrated a grand opening on September 14, 2022. The new trail segment closes the Ann and Roy Butler trail gap through the 9 acres of Austin Energy Holly property ceded to the Department. The completed trail is 12-feet wide and meanders adjacent to Lady Bird Lake, includes an overlook area, and connects to Holly Street and Pedernales Street before continuing east bound on the existing Hike and Bike trail. Additional improvements include a decorative screen wall to separate the Austin Energy power plant from the new trail, landscape plantings along the trail and the creation of an overall park setting on the ceded property.

Emma Long Metro Park

Phase 1 improvements to Emma Long Metropolitan Park were completed in 2022. Work included a new bathhouse, volleyball court and shelter, expanded park entrance, sidewalk improvements, and over 2,000 feet of trails. The project kicked off in 2020, but faced prolonged construction delays due to weather, the pandemic, and material and labor shortages. The park was able to stay open in part during the construction due to a phased approach and has been fully open to the public since July 2022.



Dick Nichols District Park

The Department worked closely with the District 8 Council Office to improve several amenities throughout Dick Nichols District Park including the renovation of the dolphin water feature and the volleyball/pickleball court with a new net as well as the resurfacing of the basketball court and the parking lot. A new live oak tree, four new limestone benches, and accessibility improvements to an existing drinking fountain and throughout the parking lot were part of the work.



IN PROGRESS



Walter E. Long Metro Park

Improvements to Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park will focus on Lakeside Park per the recommendations from the 2020 City Council adopted Vision Plan. Improvements will emphasize the rehabilitation of the site's infrastructure which will help sustain park operations until the vision plan can be implemented at a future date.

John Treviño Jr. Metro Park

Park improvements will begin by focusing on preparing the property for the first phase of implementing the Vision Plan. Improvements will include the removal of ranch equipment, barbed wire, dilapidated and unsafe structures, and the securing or reinforcing of any existing structures to remain. The process will also include a safe vehicle entry access, parking area, trailhead with seating and maps, drinking fountain, shade structure, nature trails, a decomposed granite loop trail, and a nature play area.



NEIGHBORHOOD & POCKET PARK PROJECTS

COMPLETED



Alderbrook Pocket Park

In partnership with the Austin Parks Foundation, the Department recently completed the installation of a large playground including a play structure for children ages 2-5 years old, a play structure for children ages 5-12 years old, swings, and various nature play components. In addition, the project included a pavilion, picnic tables, benches, a drinking fountain, and tree plantings. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on July 14, 2022 at the park.



Reed Neighborhood Park

The playground at Reed Neighborhood Park was beyond its useful life, so PARD worked with the community to select a new playground. The installation of two shaded play structures and a swing set were completed in March 2022. The project also included accessibility improvements including an accessible plaza area, picnic tables, and updated accessible parking space.



South Austin Neighborhood Park

PARD with assistance from Austin Parks Foundation and Friends of South Austin Neighborhood Park, completed a renovation project in February 2022 that added a three-quarter-mile granite loop trail, sidewalk improvements, new ball field fencing, and other play field improvements.

Brentwood Neighborhood Park

In January 2022, the basketball court and tennis courts were resurfaced and re-striped to enhance playability. The tennis court resurfacing included new fencing and the addition of striping for two pickleball courts.

IN PROGRESS

Duncan Neighborhood Park

The implementation plan proposes a green retreat in the city by preserving the multi-use lawn as the highlight of the park, while adding drinking fountains, bike racks and picnic areas at the 9th and 10th street access points and two wildflower meadows. Construction is anticipated to begin in early 2023.



Earl J. Pomerleau Neighborhood Park

A concept plan for this 2-acre park in the North Windsor neighborhood was completed in partnership with Austin Parks Foundation and Friends of Pomerleau Park in 2019. Construction on phase one of the park is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2022. Amenities will include loop trails, a drinking fountain, a playground, picnic tables, open play areas, tree plantings, and native wildflowers areas.





Other Parks Anticipated to Begin Construction in 2023

- Brownie Neighborhood Park
- Highland Neighborhood Park
- Oertli Neighborhood Park

AQUATIC FACILITIES



Colony Park Aquatic Facility and Givens Aquatic Facility



The design phase for both the Colony Park Aquatic and the Givens Aquatic Facilities were completed. The community pools will both feature a lap lane pool, tot pool, spray ground feature, diving board, renovated bathhouse facilities, and aquatic office space. Both projects are in the permitting phase.



Parque Zaragoza Bathhouse Rehabilitation

The design phase was completed for the Parque Zaragoza Bathhouse Rehabilitation. The original brick structure was erected in 1941 by the National Youth Administration, a New Deal agency. In the summer of 2022, the bathhouse was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The architectural program includes rehabilitation and accessibility improvements to the existing restrooms, a large pavilion accessed by doorways from the park side through to the pool area, and a lifeguard office. The unique arched facade architectural elements on the building's pool-facing side will remain intact. The project is anticipated to start construction in 2023.



Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest Aquatic Facility

The 2018 General Obligation Bond included funding for the renovation of the beloved aquatic facility at Beverly S. Sheffield Northwest District Park in Northwest Austin so that it can continue to be a gem of the community and complement the vision of the District Park. The project is in the community engagement phase.



Montopolis Pool

The Montopolis Pool project will upgrade the existing neighborhood pool to a community pool with a beach entry, new play features, an accessible deck, and new family restrooms. The existing restrooms will be renovated, and the mural on the side of the building will be restored through the Austin Art in Public Places program. The project is currently in the community engagement phase.



CARING FOR OUR PARKS

Boat Docks at Commons Ford

The Boat Docks at Commons Ford were put in by the family that originally owned the property and needed repairs. The maintenance team replaced boards and made other structural improvements to ensure park patrons can continue to enjoy them safely.



Bridge Deck at Rosewood Neighborhood Park

The bridge deck at Rosewood Neighborhood Park is over 30 years old and was worn. The maintenance team secured the area and improved the walkway for patrons of the park.



Pergola at the North Star Greenbelt

The maintenance team made major repairs to the Pergola at the North Star Greenbelt, an original structure from when the park was acquired over 30 years ago.

Butler Landfill

The Department worked closely with C3 Presents to address the concerns and requirements expressed by the Watershed Protection Department in the maintenance of the existing cap at the Butler Landfill on Stratford Drive. The proposed improvements were authorized by the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality in December 2021. The work included the re-vegetation of approximately three acres of the landfill cap, the installation of an irrigation system to support the re-vegetated three acres, a split rail fence along Stratford Drive to delineate the re-vegetated area, the installation of gates to assist control of vehicular access to the cap, a pedestrian gate near Lou Neff Road, and the application of additional gravel to remove ponding and improve drainage in the existing gravel area. The work was completed in December 2022.



37% Reduction in workplace injuries from FY21, surpassing the goal by 25%



Austin High Tennis Wall

The back wall of the tennis courts at Austin High School was worn down and in need of replacing. PARD staff replaced and painted 30 plywood sheets during school hours.



Butler Park Decking

The deck along the pond in Butler Park had begun to rot due to extreme weather conditions. PARD staff replaced the lower floor beams with metal planks to better withstand the elements. The new deck is sturdier and more stylish.



Zilker Park Disc Golf

PARD's maintenance crew relocated holes 4 and 5 of the disc golf course at Zilker Metro Park to accommodate play while work on the Zilker Maintenance Barn is underway. Both holes received new concrete tee pads, new baskets, fresh mulch, and 70 new cedar rails in their new locations.



Cooper Neighborhood Park

Cooper Neighborhood Park was acquired by PARD in 2021. This year, the maintenance team installed 60 wooden bollards along the entrance and driveway of the park to allow access for mowing and maintenance.



Sports Field Irrigation

This year, Austin hosted a regional girls fast-pitch softball tournament. To prepare for the event, the PARD irrigation crew replaced the sprinkler heads at Krieg Field in Roy G. Guerrero Colorado River Metro Park and Havins Field in Walnut Creek Metro Park.



FACILITIES

Lamar Senior Activity Center Dance Floor Replacement

The wooden dance floor at the Senior Center was over 30 years old and had started to crack. A new oak wood floor was installed and sealed. The new floor should keep Austin residents dancing for another 30 years or more!

South Austin Recreation Center Floor Replacement

The vinyl flooring of the recreation center had outlived its lifespan and was coming loose. A new laminate flooring was installed to improve the look and function of this facility.



MUSEUMS & CULTURAL CENTERS



Photo Credit: Cindy Elizabeth

George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural and Genealogy Center

In March of 2022, legendary music icon George Clinton presented his first solo visual arts exhibition at the George Washington Carver Museum, Cultural and Genealogy Center. The exhibit, *Grooves from the Deep*, featured paintings that teleported viewers to the inner and outer spaces of George Clinton's intergalactic imagination. New iterations of the mothership, atomic dog, and popular funk imagery emerged frequently in the work. Inspired by the things we cannot see or imagine from the vantage point of earth, Clinton explores the nature of humanity, space geographies, and the possibilities of living off planet. The exhibition ran from March 10, 2022 to June 19, 2022.



Day 1: Discovery

Friday, October 9, 2020, 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Day 1 sessions will address the archaeologist's report and what it means. Participants will hear from the project team members involved in the excavation, professional analysis, as well as the ongoing reinterment. Additionally, researchers from the University of Connecticut who are partnering with the City of Austin will discuss what DNA analysis can reveal about the individuals from the past and the opportunities for locating descendants.

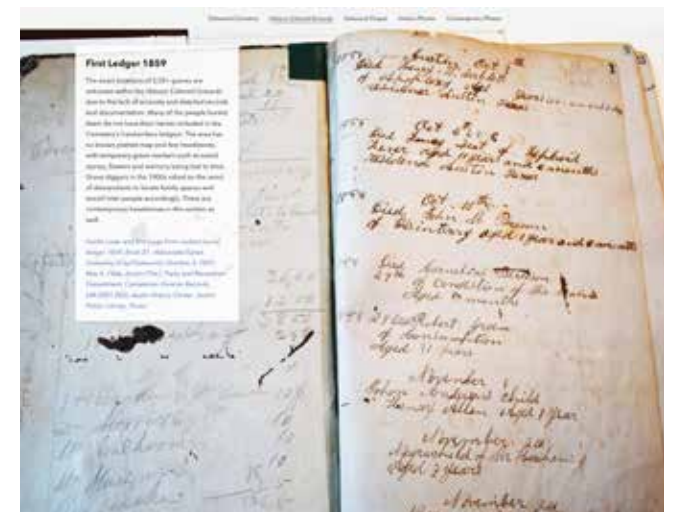
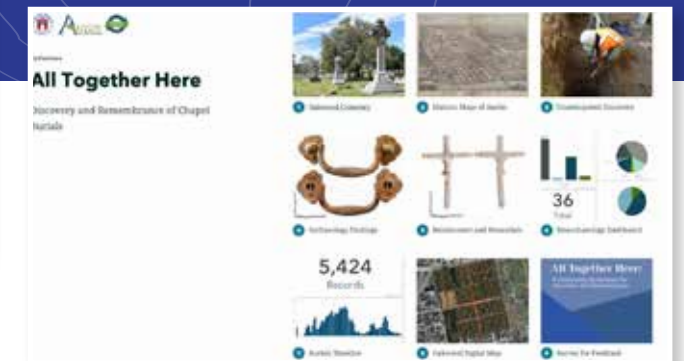
Day 2: Remembrance

Saturday, October 10, 2020, noon to 5 p.m.

Day 2 sessions will cover the historical context of the people who were found and how this context expands our understanding of 19th century Austin, cemetery history, cultural expressions of grief, and reverence of ancestors. Additionally, we will explore how the City of Austin's process can be improved in the future and what the community would like to see at the site as a permanent memorial.

Oakwood Cemetery Chapel

In December 2021, Preservation Austin awarded Museums and Cultural Programs a Special Recognition Award for Outstanding Educational Programming for "All Together Here," an online community symposium and exhibit, focused on the discovered burials at Oakwood Cemetery Chapel. The symposium attracted over 300 participants from throughout the U.S. and the world. Over 40 archaeologists, anthropologists, historians, and activists participated as panelists in two days of public sessions.



Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center
Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center (ESB-MACC) celebrated the 5th anniversary of its Teen Leadership program Caminos which each year creates an opportunity for 12 high-school students to carve their own path in a creative career with the City and beyond. The program was featured at the 2022 SXSW EDU conference and has recently been awarded funds from the Austin Conservation Civilian Corps program which will allow Caminos to expand professional opportunities to more teens in the coming years. Four Caminos alums were employed during summer camps in 2022 as camp counselors fulfilling a dream to “grown our own” employees.



Old Bakery and Emporium
The Old Bakery and Emporium held its first ever Midsummer Festival celebrating Swedish Heritage in June of 2022. Over 200 visitors attended the event that included a presentation about gnomes and trolls, traditional Swedish treats, handmade flower crowns used in Swedish festivals and the Texas innovation of a Swedish Pinata. Members of the Austin Conservation Civilian Corps were on hand to assist attendees with flower crown creations.



Elisabet Ney Museum
On April 16, the Elisabet Ney Museum hosted its annual Ney Day event to commemorate Elisabet Ney, and celebrate women in the arts, sciences, and civic culture. Over 200 members of the public came to celebrate, as well as recognize the late the Museum Site Coordinator and Curator's (Oliver Franklin) accomplishments. The Friends of the Elizabeth Ney Museum announced a fundraising campaign in the name of the late Curator to raise funds for a new Interpretive Plan for the Elisabet Ney Museum. The funding will go towards developing a plan, coordinating a community engagement effort, and installing new exhibits based on input from the public. To date, the Friends of the Ney have received over \$130,000 in foundation grants and donations from the community.



Asian American Resource Center
After a two-year hiatus, the Asian American Resource Center's (AARC) Congregate Meals program returned on-site in May 2022 with a new vendor: Meals on Wheels. AARC is their first Asian-centric community site for which they have curated ten new Asian inspired meals. Meals are accompanied by health and wellness programming such as T'ai Chi, yoga and meditation. Seniors especially enjoy the Bollywood fitness program!



EVENTS IN OUR PARKS



TEMPORARY CONCESSIONS & COMMERCIAL USE



36 6 Month / Single Day Permits Issued

45 Commercial Use Permits Issued with 11,634 Participants

\$50.4k Revenue Generated

FILM EVENT RENTALS

497 Days of Filming Supporting 6,250 Crew/Cast/Staff

\$44k Filming Location Donations



The Office of Special Events (OSE) continued to coordinate the return of 27 annual special events to the park system in collaboration with event organizers and City departments.

The team offered customized support to event organizers for their individual needs when navigating Austin Center for Events pandemic reopening protocols, allowing approximately 1.5M attendees to experience parks.

OSE returned temporary concessions on parkland to pre-pandemic levels to offer greater amenities to park users.

The team also planned and coordinated 18 ribbon cuttings, unveilings, and other celebrations for completed park projects.



EVENT RENTALS

\$1.4M Ticketed Event Rental

1,325 Picnic Site Rentals

282 Event Building Rentals



RECRUITING, HIRING,
AND TRAINING

PARD will receive \$3,125,000 in Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership funds to support the Montopolis Pool Project and to offset escalating construction costs in the Austin area.

44 Initial Lifeguard
Classes Offered

408 New Lifeguard
Certifications Issued

27 Lifeguard Renewal
Classes Offered

275 Lifeguard Re-certifications
Certificates Renewed

POOLS OPENED

The Aquatic Division operated 20 pools this year, five year-round pools and 15 seasonal facilities. In addition, all 10 splash pads were in operation May through September. The Aquatic team re-certified 275 lifeguards from FY21 and trained an additional 408 lifeguards.

20 Number of Pools
Opened

5 Year Round
Facilities

8 Pools with Entry Fees

973,470 Total Attendance

TOTAL REVENUE **\$3,865,835**

\$3,575,338 Record-Breaking
Annual Revenue for
Barton Springs Pool



SWIM LESSONS AND SWIM TEAM

1749 Total Participants

1621 Youth Swim Lessons
6mos-12 years old

128 Teen and Adult
Swim Lesson
Participants

435 Swim Team
Participants

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.

In partnership with the YMCA and AISD, SwimATX provided 13 lifeguards for the FY22 season. The Aquatics Division taught 1749 total swim lesson participants in classes ranging from beginner to competitive swimming.

38 High School Students
Completed Course
for Credit

22 Students Eligible to
Become Lifeguards

13 Lifeguards worked
for City of Austin



Golf ATX experienced a record number of golf rounds played on the City's six golf courses with over 300K rounds played, a 5% increase over the previous year from October 2021 through September of 2022. Golf ATX will close the fiscal year with over \$10.5 million in revenues with \$2 million in profit. This is the second time in the division's history that it has surpassed the \$10 million mark. It is especially notable given that one course, Roy Kizer, was closed from April 15 through Sept 8.



Course Improvements

Completed numerous improvement projects including the Roy Kizer greens resurfacing project, Lions Clubhouse roof replacement, Jimmy Clay drainage improvements, Clay/Kizer Driving Range net replacement and the new Morris Williams chipping practice area and driving range net extension.



Dallas Morning News
TOP 25 MID-PRICED GOLF COURSES
Grey Rock #15

Dallas Morning News
TOP 25 ECONOMY GOLF COURSES
Jimmy Clay #11
Morris Williams #12
Lions #22



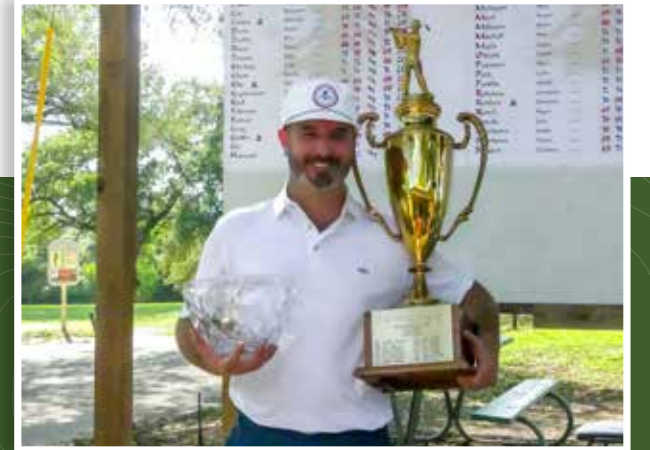
Tournaments

The Golf Division hosted over 670 adult and junior tournament players in Golf ATX sponsored tournaments including the Firecracker Open and its two qualifier tournaments, the Men's and Women's City Championship, the Senior Men's and Women's City Championship and the City Junior Championship. City of Austin golf courses hosted 334 tournaments and league matches, and 43 events and meetings.



Junior Golf

Golf ATX hosted over 2,000 junior golf tournament participants on City golf courses, players ranged in age from 5-18 and competed in the Austin City Junior Championship, STPGA events, U.S. Kids tournaments and UIL Boys and Girls High School Golf State Championship.



COMMUNITY RECREATION



Launched the Varsity Generation Re-branding Campaign

Many people in the 50 to 65-year-old age group are still part of the workforce and not enthusiastic about joining programs and events at a “senior” center. PARD introduced the concept of adults ages 50 and up joining in Varsity Generation activities. The idea of “varsity” is that it is at the top. Varsity Generation embraces all who visit and participate in the center’s activities. From low-key card games and crafts, to high-energy hikes and fitness programs, there is something for everyone. Go Varsity Generation!

Activation and Enhancement

Several sites upgraded and enhanced their facilities and grounds to activate park areas. Rosewood Neighborhood Park upgraded tennis courts to have two pickleball and two tennis courts. Dittmar, Turner Roberts and Gus Garcia Recreation Centers added outdoor lighting which will allow evening sports and events. Gus Garcia Recreation Center built a new outdoor basketball court with lights. Mendez Recreation Center added a shade structure to the splash pad that offers a cool respite from the Texas sun. South Austin Recreation Center renovated a multi-sport ball field that is a top-notch sports complex for soccer, kickball and baseball.



Emergency Services

Five Recreation Centers were activated for a total of 22 days for cold weather shelters and four of the centers were 24-hour shelters. South Austin, Montopolis, Dittmar, Northwest and Gus Garcia Recreation Centers provided Austin Citizens a warm place to spend the night when temperatures dropped below 40 degrees.

1,216 People Given Shelter During Cold Weather Emergencies

1,767 Employee Work Hours



Out of School Time Programs

PARD received extra funding this year to expand Out of School Time Programs for youth and teens. Innovative new programs and events hosted hundreds of youth participants across the city. A few examples of programs included Kite Day, RC car races, outdoor adventure, Ninja Warrior, cooking classes, photography, inflatable obstacle courses, and a Tough Mudder Run.

CENTRALIZED PROGRAMS

Community Initiatives

The Department provides accessible, diverse, and inclusive summer camps. This year, early registration was offered for community participants who qualify for financial aid, adaptive, and inclusion support programs. Many community members are unable to access the appropriate technology, don't have the bandwidth needed for online registration, are unable to change work schedules to accommodate the registration time, or have language barriers and need to reach out to facilities in person or over the phone. Through the early registration process, 16% of maximum enrollment registrations were financial aid participants and 2% were those who qualify for inclusion services. There was a noticeable increase in financial aid registrations in specialty camps which are very competitive. Early registration reduced barriers to program participation and provided more equitable opportunities.



FINANCIAL AID & INCLUSION UNIT

- 1,149** Youth Receiving Financial Aid
- 165** Youth Awarded the Scott Johnson Youth Scholarship
- 65** Unique Inclusive Participants Served
- 605** Hours of Staff Training for Inclusion Services

FOOD ACCESS DATA

- 20,192** Free Meals Served Summer 2022 Via Central Texas Food Bank
- 30,296** Pounds of Fresh Produce Served Summer 2022 via Brighter Bites
- 365** Free Nutrition Education Classes Offered in 2022 via Common Threads



BALL FIELD LIGHT INSTALLMENTS

15 Fields with New Ball Field Lights to Date Over 2 Years

13 Upcoming Ball Field Light Replacements



Athletics

PARD completed the replacement of lights on five ballfields in Central, South, and East Austin. The new LED lights provide up to 80% reduced energy use, light direction control for reduced light pollution, online scheduling and a 25-year warranty. Light pollution is a nuisance for the community and a growing threat to birds as they become disoriented, confused, and vulnerable. These new fixtures provide direct light with less community light pollution and help billions of migratory birds that fly through Texas. Additionally, light bulb technology is changing and ballfields across Austin are being prioritized for light replacement based on sustainability, age, and functionality.

ADAPTIVE PROGRAMS SERVICES

- 45** Seniors and/or Adults with Disabilities Served
- 2,200** Additional Program Hours



Therapeutic Recreation

Alamo Recreation Center was awarded the Lone Star Programming Award from the Texas Recreation and Parks Society for the expansion of Therapeutic Adult Day Programming. The establishment of new programs expanded services to the underserved community of adults with disabilities on the North and East sides of Austin. Now with Therapeutic Adult Day Programming spanning across three locations throughout our community a standardized assessment process was developed to meet individual needs and program placement. Our team of Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists perform recreation-based assessments which are utilized to develop modifications to programs, activities, and staff training that provide opportunities for successful participation in all PARD programs.

NATURAL RESOURCES



Joan Means Khabele Recognition

Recognized desegregation efforts of Joan Means Khabele at a celebration at Barton Springs Pool. Khabele and some of her fellow classmates in the 1960s bravely defied City rules that forbid people of color from swimming in many pools including Barton Springs.



\$11,351,706 Operating Budget

2 New Baby Porcupines
became ambassador animals at the Austin Nature and Science Center

5k Trees Cared For
through actions like planting, pruning and watering while running a 49% vacancy rate within the Forestry unit

3 Commitments to Conservation
Community Wildlife Habitat with the National Wildlife Federation, Austin's Mayors' Monarch Pledge and new Bee City USA Certificate

615 Park Ranger Visits to Illegal Campsites on Parkland

1,065 Park Ranger Directed Patrols for Areas with Reported Concerns

2,211 Park Ranger Interactions with Off-Leash Dog Owners

1.6 Miles of Shaded Fuel Break Installed on Parkland

LAND MANAGEMENT

In response to the 2019 Wildfire Preparedness Audit, the Land Management Program was established with the goal of creating a land management plan for approximately 10,000 acres of parkland natural areas. A key component of the plan is a climate vulnerability assessment to identify strategies for improving resiliency to extreme heat, drought, disease, and wildfire. Using the Social Vulnerability Index, vulnerable parks and preserves near people are given the highest priority.



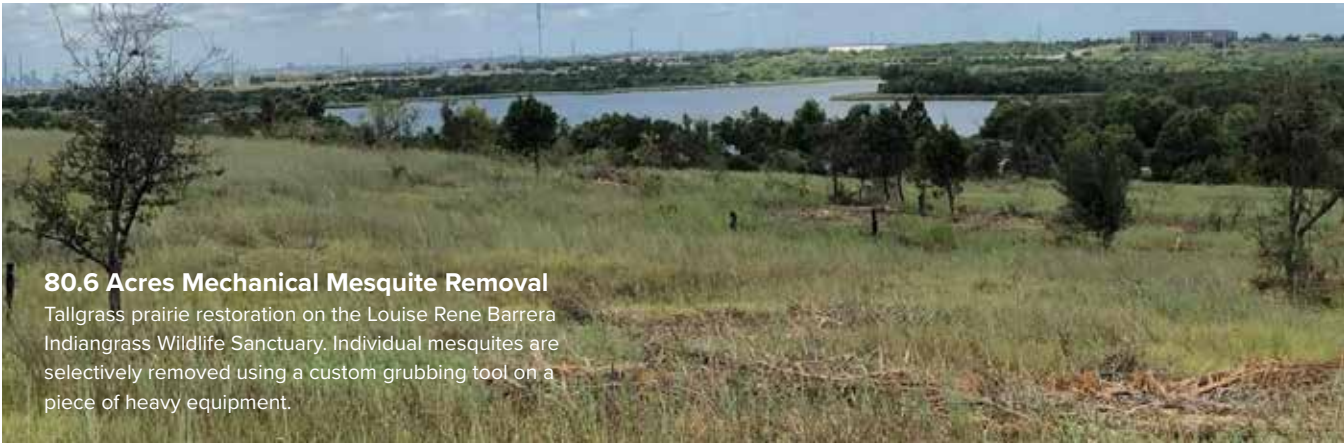
Natural Area Restoration Achievements

3.5 Acres Dripline Treatment

Dripline treatment is when small competing trees beneath the canopies, or within the “driplines”, of large specimen trees are selectively removed. The health and longevity of the remaining trees are improved by the increased availability of light, water, and nutrients.

4.5 Acres Pilot Broadcast at Red Bluff Nature Preserve

Small, early-successional and invasive species were selectively removed to reduce tree density, increase resource availability, and improve diversity and resiliency of the treated woodland to extreme heat, drought, disease, and wildfire.



80.6 Acres Mechanical Mesquite Removal

Tallgrass prairie restoration on the Louise Rene Barrera Indiangrass Wildlife Sanctuary. Individual mesquites are selectively removed using a custom grubbing tool on a piece of heavy equipment.



The Land Management team installed approximately 1.6 miles of shaded fuel breaks for reduction of wildfire risk in six parks and preserves thanks to support from the Austin Fire Department, Austin Civilian Conservation Corp and Park Rangers.

PARD’s Land Management team completed cooperative agreements with three local organizations for assistance in training and implementation of prescribed burns and other activities related to wildland fire. PARD maintains a total of six agreements with partners that comprise the Central Texas Prescribed Fire Council. The council shares resources and engages in training for prescribed burns, reduces wildfire risk, and improves ecosystem health across the region.

The team created a burn plan, burn unit preparations, and secured a burn permit from the Austin Fire Department for a prescribed burn. The burn plan is cross-boundary (City-County) and crosses fire jurisdictions. The successful permitting of this plan shows the importance of a multi-agency effort to manage public natural resources and reduce fire risk across Austin across jurisdictional boundaries.

Nature Preserves launched an improved webpage with an interactive map and drafted a sign plan that included rules, entry and wayfinding signs. The team also created the Audio Wild Project that provides park users with a sense of place and historical perspective in an audio format as they visit natural areas. Blunn Creek Preserve video was completed and it is the first in a series of planned videos promoting the nature preserve system with useful information such as preserve location, parking, trail surface, and hike difficulty, preserve rules, ecological features, and volunteer information.



FORESTRY UNIT

The Department's Forestry Unit is made up of 35 positions. Hiring has been difficult this year with the team running a vacancy rate upwards of 49%. Despite this, dedicated staff members were able to care for a large number of trees. Winter Storm Uri continues to have an impact on park trees. Above and beyond the normal volume of routine maintenance requests, PARD Forestry staff also responded to a large increase of dead and declining trees that were damaged in the freeze and needed to be removed. Removal decisions are not taken lightly, and many trees were carefully pruned to remove deadwood, allowing more time to evaluate their response.

922 Trees Planted

1,136 Trees Watered
representing 18,847 individual tree watering visits

1,938 Trees Pruned

140 Trees Mulched

829 Trees Removed
Dead trees or trees in declining health

1,938,700 lbs. Tree Debris
969 Tons Brush Recycled

34 Tons Wood Reclaimed
Equivalent to 7540 board feet of lumber

239 Tree Inspections
Assessments Completed

12 Tree Climbing Events
Hosted Events for Kids



HOMELESSNESS

The City collectively engaged in a process to create cross-departmental methods to respond to and address homeless encampments city-wide. Many of PARD's existing procedures were modified and adopted by the City as a whole.

49 Parks with at Least One Tent

248 Encampments Identified on Parkland
The number of encampments camps is up slightly from the last count of 228 done in November 2021.

1 PARD Employee
Dedicated to homelessness response.

\$200k Provided by Austin Public Health
For PARD to hire temporary employees in FY23.

206 People Experiencing Homelessness
Offered transitional housing via the HEAL Initiative and 91 of those, nearly half, were at one park.

\$649,840 Contractor Costs for Encampment Clean-up in FY22

337,500 lbs Trash Removed from Parkland by Workforce First in FY22

170% Increase Homeless Encampment Spending
Over the previous year's budget for homelessness encampments. More than \$750,000 was spent this year, nearly \$500,000 over the allocated budget.

The Department's Homeless Response program consists of a single employee who gets support from Park Rangers, an Environmental Conservation Program Manager, and Natural Resources Division Manager. Austin Public Health has provided \$200,000 in temporary funding from the federal American Recovery Plan Act for PARD to hire temporary employees for the Homeless Response program. As PARD works through its responsibilities in managing and clearing encampments on parkland, it is also reviewing resource needs.

Encampment evictions were carried out these park locations at least once and, in some cases, multiple times: Parque Zaragosa, Lamar Beach Park, Country Club Creek Greenbelt, Roy Guerrero Park, Gillis Park, Mexican American Cultural Center, Lakeshore at Lady Bird Lake Park, Herron Hollow Park, Bouldin Creek Greenbelt, St. Johns Park, and several other sites. Two encampment clean-ups alone totaled over \$300,000 of general fund dollars and thousands more dollars in staffing support including very important efforts by Austin Resource Recovery and Austin Police Department.



QTY.	Encampment Level
65	Level 1 Vacated trash piles that are ready for cleanup by contractor.
9	Level 2 Clean, safe camps.
48	Level 3 Encampments near amenities, low levels of sharps/biohazards issues, and/or low levels of trash.
126	Level 4 Encampments very near or on amenities, have higher environmental impacts, sharps and biohazards present, and/or high levels of trash.
0	Level 5 Immediate threat to health and safety.

PARK RANGERS

Park Rangers hired the first ever seasonal Park Ranger staff that supported operations during the busy summer months. This pilot year was successful and allowed for additional support in busy locations like the Barton Creek Greenbelt, Zilker Park and Onion Creek Metropolitan Park.

Any time a Park Ranger speaks with people at a park to educate or inform, it is logged as a contact. Overall, Park Ranger contact numbers are up 50% over the previous year, 14% higher than average.

Programs and volunteer events were no longer severely restricted which accounted for 8K or 23% more contacts than the previous year and more than double the number of program participants.



ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDEN

This year saw growth in gardens, programming, and visitation at the Zilker Botanical Garden. The gardens had several improvements including the establishment of a new Bird Habitat area and the renovation of the Green Garden to prepare it for new displays of sustainable landscape plants in an ongoing partnership with Austin's Watershed Protection Department.

Dino Days, Woodland Faerie Trail, and Roots & Wings events returned and a new event, The Surreal Garden, drew over 8,000 people to the Zilker Botanical Garden over six nights. There is also a new concessions vendor, Pretty Cute Coffee, that provides plant-based drinks.

PARD's partnership with the Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy also grew, with the Conservancy adding operations and education staff to support increased programming, membership, and visitation.



35,741 Total Park Ranger Contacts

23,223 Education-based Contacts
8,981 Laws & Rules Contacts

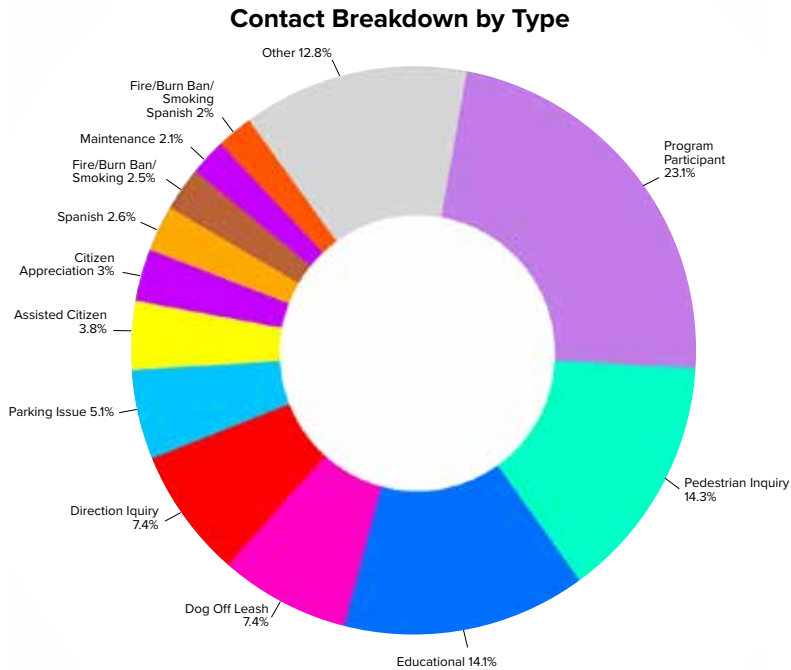
219 Total Park Ranger Programs

8,247 Program Contacts with the Public
Park Ranger programs focus on the 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.

1,065 Directed Patrols for Areas with Reported Completed

2,211 Park Ranger Interactions with Off-Leash Dog Owners

615 Visits to Illegal Campsites on Parkland



74 Faerie Houses

Created for the Woodland Faerie Trail in the summer of 2022, a new record. Faerie Aficionados young and old flitted through the Woodland Faerie Trail enjoying the creations built and installed by community members.

161,936 Visitors

Represent strong growth of 4.7% over previous year's attendance of 154,598.

\$766,622 Admission Revenue

800+ Members

Zilker Botanical Garden Conservancy has over 800 members and growing.

834 Photography Permits Issued

\$42,150 in revenues from permits

200 Monarch Butterflies Released

During the annual Roots & Wings celebration of pollinators and trees.

The Surreal Garden

A new event created in partnership with local company Ion Art, Inc. Neon and metal sculptures lit up the Zilker Botanical Garden for six nights, creating a surreal and unique experience for over 8,000 attendees.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

The Austin Community Gardens program served members across 30 community gardens, adding leadership training to help ensure smooth operations, and offering webinars and seed giveaways to gardeners hungry for knowledge, plants, and connections with fellow gardeners! Community Garden staff also worked to create and provide translation and interpretation services so that our community gardens can be more welcoming to all Austin residents.

30 Community Gardens

7 Senior Gardens

740 Plots Maintained

by committed community members.

AUSTIN NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER

Several new ambassador animals now call the Austin Nature and Science Center home: two baby North American Porcupines, two hatchling American Alligators, an Greater Roadrunner, a Rock Dove, a Rough Green Snake, and an American Eel. They are on display for visitors and will also provide enhancements to educational programing.



Programing participations started slow as the City of Austin remained in heightened pandemic risk levels early in 2022. By summer, participation in programs had returned to almost pre-pandemic levels.



BEVERLY S. SHEFFIELD EDUCATION CENTER

The Beverly S. Sheffield and Education Center was closed for much of the year due to COVID-19. Despite the closure, the BSSEC hosted the Time Stream Exhibit which detailed how many environmentalists and community activist worked to ensure that Barton Springs was protected and would be available for future generations. Visitors were able to make reservations to see the exhibit in groups of 10 or less.

The Austin Nature and Science Center (ANSC) was built more than 40 years ago. With time comes the need for repairs and improvements which this year included a new sky roof at the Visitor Pavilion and the renovation of the Small Wonders Exhibit.



ANSC was selected by the Smithsonian Institute to host the Observing NASA exhibit which includes a \$4,000 grant to conduct programming related to the space imaging kiosk.

The operations team planted more than 1,000 native and dry-adapted plants on the grounds of the Austin Nature and Science Center.

The Naturalist Workshop and Trade Counter completed over 1,700 trades, encouraging young people to collect and trade nature items.

The Trade Counter and many other projects were completed with 102 volunteers who completed over 1,500 hours of service.

LORRAINE “GRANDMA” CAMACHO ACTIVITY CENTER

Lorraine “Grandma” Camacho Activity Center was excited to return to offering in-person programs. Family Kayaking programs continued to be popular with 144 participants joining the Camacho staff on a guided adventure on the water. Camacho’s Varsity Adventure programs had 393 enrollments for hiking and kayaking in the 50 and older programs.



Summer Camps

Summer Camps were registered at full capacity with 520 participants. Many of the families came back to Camacho on the evening of September 9 to see the outstanding movies created by the Film Camps.

Youth adventure and environmental education programs were in full swing again this year, with the Cubs Club enrolling 40 participants and Dirt Divas enrolling 30 participants this year. Even though Camacho’s programming team was down by 50% this summer, it was another successful camp for all.



Cycling

Camacho’s Youth Biking program registered 30 participants and provided 25,898 program hours where participants learned to bike, improved their cycling skills, and learned about bike maintenance.

The Camacho Teen Bike Team returned to competing this year in National Interscholastic Cycling Association tournaments. The Bike Team’s 30 members participated in 24 events and 3 campouts, completing over 32,292 program hours.

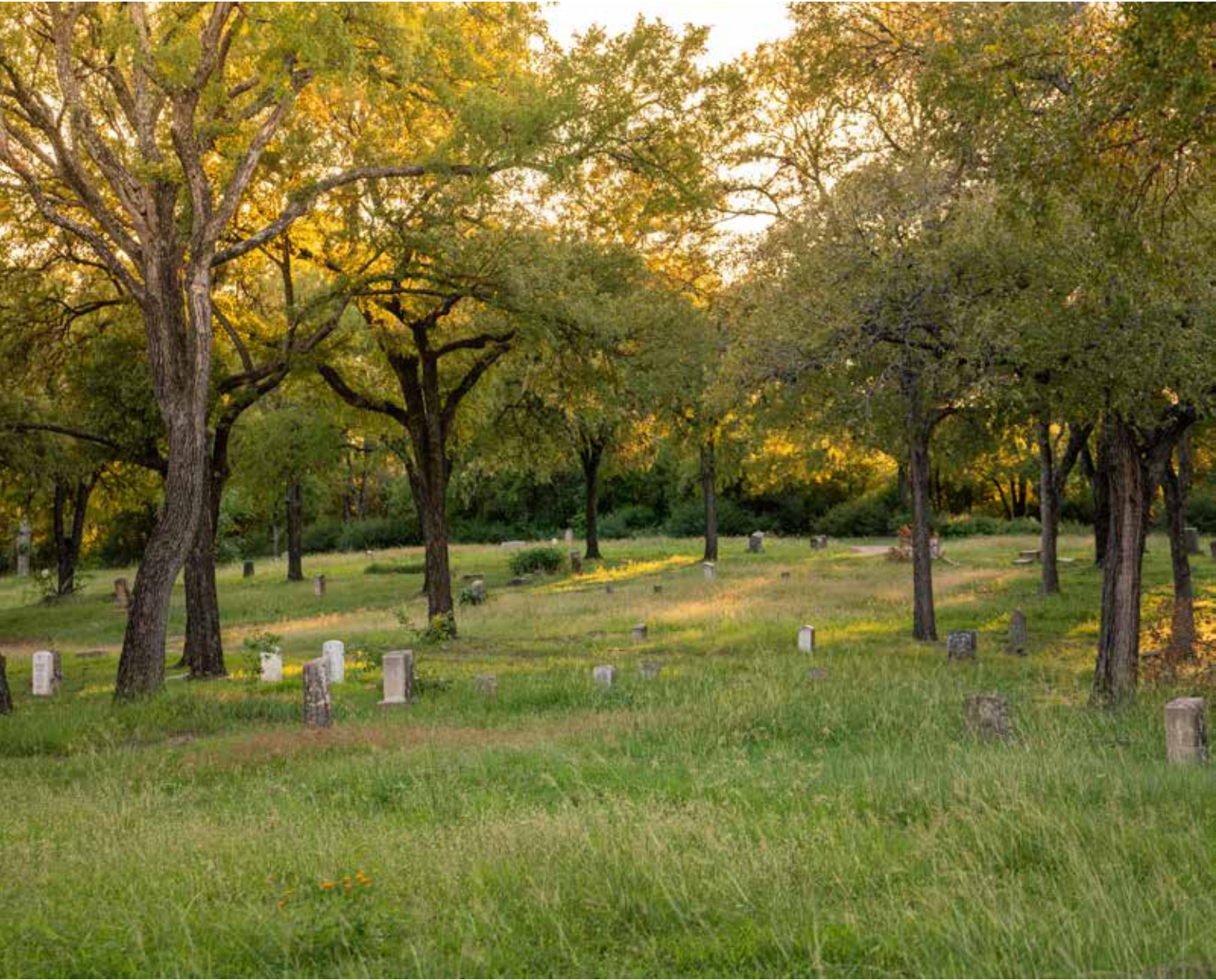
This year, the Center transitioned to having a bike repair shop on site with the installation of an exercise station behind the center. The station has been popular with trail users and cyclists living in the neighborhood.



Adaptive

Youth and Teen and Adaptive Outdoor programs served 266 participants this past year, providing 3,724 program hours. Camacho staff led 180 participants in 717 program hours of Adult Adaptive Kayaking providing adventure recreation to people with disabilities including spinal injuries.

HISTORIC CEMETERIES



Serving the Community

Cemetery Operations serve as last responders for the community in an often-forgotten industry. With changes to pandemic-related City recommendations, staff have shifted back to meeting with families in person for interments and space sales.

Along with the ongoing mowing and edging that's needed for each of the cemeteries, the maintenance team has been installing monuments and improving grounds operation and maintenance. Staff is also working to improve services and production, and developing processes for monuments and grounds maintenance.

Cemetery Operations staff partner with Urban Forestry to assess and perform maintenance and removal of damaged trees from droughts and winter storms.



Birdwatching in Cemeteries

Cemetery Operations staff continued developing relationship with Travis Audubon and hosted three more cemetery walks in Austin Memorial Park, Evergreen, and Oakwood Cemeteries. These walks introduced many people to the importance of cemeteries as natural habitats for wildlife within the city and encouraged appreciation of the space for its nature as well as historical significance.

\$3M Operating Budget

18 Full Time Staff

Doing ground maintenance, monument settings, and interment preparation.

6 Full Time Staff

Doing management, conservation, programming, and administrative operations.

480 Space Sales

502 Interments

192 Monuments

5 Historic Buildings

Gates opened 365 days per year



5 Municipal Cemeteries

2 Family Cemeteries on Parkland

180 Years of History

200+ Acres of Cemetery Grounds

80,000+ Graves



austintexas.gov/parks