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# BULL CREEK DISTRICT PARK PLANNING

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## Bull Creek District Park Planning

### Public Engagement Summary

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) kicked-off the Bull Creek District Park planning process on September 17, 2016. Parks and Recreation Department staff conducted outreach and a park user survey in Bull Creek District Park. The survey was also made available online, and 135 residents and park users completed the survey. Several themes emerged from the responses to the survey: preserving the natural feel of the park, improving the trail, improved signage, restrooms, and more drinking fountains. Many respondents expressed concerns of excessive trash and need for recycling, regular maintenance, and enforcement of park rules. Many open ended comments were specifically about the creek, flooding and erosion issues; for this reason, experts from Watershed Protection of the City of Austin were included in the discussion at the public meetings.

On October 27<sup>th</sup> and November 17<sup>th</sup> PAR hosted two public meetings for the community to review conceptual plans for the park. Attendees were invited to provide their comments on park maps and comment cards. Several themes emerged from the comments, many similar to input received through the survey. There is a preference among the community to maintain and preserve the natural elements of the park. Many comments suggested adding better signage in the park for wayfinding, warnings and rules, and general park information. There is a desire for park enhancements to be focused on the trail, restrooms, and the picnic/play area. Participants asked for historical elements of the park to be restored. Primary concerns were trash, parking, and erosion of the park due to flooding.

### Public Meeting Comments October 27, 2016

#### Citizen Input Notes

- Riparian Zone- increased vegetation management with the park
- Memorial bench looks at milkweed needs peaceful view for its purpose
- Parking?
- Better clean up
- Trail improvement
- Leave concrete slab by new bridge area
- Leave park as natural as possible
- Leave natural as possible
- No playscape
- No increase to parking- need to discourage more use

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- No fires, no grills
- No playscape necessary- the creek is the playscape
- Check with office buildings nearby for extra parking
- Great idea for more picnic tables
- Off leash area between park and Lakewood/360 intersection- away from the kids and families who stay in park area
- Entire Bull Creek Trail trimming
- Thank you awesome park people!!
- Make trail from park to 360/Lakewood (in?) green not on road
- Leave park () to big enforcement/education for park and creek visitors during peak visit times- weekends middle of day and end of day
- Thank you PARD!
- No more parking
- Leave natural as possible
- Pedestrian path with bollards will need to pass department of transportation road width parameters before anything can be planned.
- Add ADA compliant access path to picnic area near creek
- Beware of doors on renovated restroom- can hide issues with vagrants, drug deals, murders (in the past)

## Map Comments

- Soil replacement for heritage trees
- Restore "pool" wall
- Sign indicating parking lot floods
- Remove debris field
- Repair damaged pool
- Remove debris field
- More eagle scout trail rebuilding
- Response team to clear the trees after a storm along the paths
- Parking on the weekends at office building?
- Parking is a big issue. Can PARD get the businesses to make space available on weekends?
- The parking lot up at the next small park desperately needs repair and new sub structure
- All private property- can it become PARD?
- Find a way to channel the water through or around this bridge
- Yes, trash, good

- Needs walking path along Lakewood
- Drainage really needs lots of work \$50k is a comically small amount (proposed estimate)
- ADA compliant bench with ADA path somewhere here- more important here
- Concrete cost= trail \$14/sqft \$20/linear foot
- Project priority- #1 Bathroom, #2 Trash, 33 Bridge flooding
- (Multiple locations) post signs summer time when creek has high fecal contamination
- Dog free area
- 360/Lakewood parking lot improvement, marked area?
- Large metal trash dumpster at parking area Lakewood and 360
- Trail maintenance (trails becoming overgrown and impassable)
- Long term- dog area in greenbelt away from creek
- Bridgehead flooding put several 36" drain tubes under the asphalt (?) to deter (more?) flooding
- Additional large trash containers out of flood plain along creek
- Put reading benches as close to the creek as possible without being in the midst of the bathers
- Signage and/or put stepping stone here to get to the trail- anchored with rebar to keep it firm there (?)
- Park enforcement- timing peak, Saturdays/Sundays dusk 4-6 pm
- Debris (from all the storms) removed on Lakewood (speyers)
- Engineered (new) report on how to protect what is left
- More water faucets (like hose)
- No pedestrian barriers on Lakewood drive for trail purposes
- Keep grass area
- Historic area- pool- home- dam
- New picnic tables
- Grills so that charcoal fires are not done on the ground

## Public Meeting Comments November 17, 2016

### Citizen Input Notes

- When you redo bathrooms, make a provision for (locked) electrical outlet to be able to power "movies in the park" events and possibly other gatherings needing a public address system. (Note, needs to be at least 5 amp)
- Kiosk with park map and trail map
- Trail developed connecting both end of the park on each side of Loop 360. This means getting trail right-of-way on TXDOT land for trail going under 360 bridge.
- Bicycle striping on Lakewood Dr. if possible

- I really like the idea of keeping the park as natural looking as possible
- I love that you will have recycling containers. My only concern is whether they can be emptied often enough.
- Please remove the tons of gravel that has filled in the old swimming hole from years of erosion.
- Before the 360 construction, the park was a real jewel. The debris from the lack of erosion control allowed the park to be filled with gravel etc. The 60 foot deep pool at the old dam has been filled in. If restoration of this park could be funded, this jewel could again be a special place.
- Keep feral hogs out of the park so they don't destroy good plants.
- Issues:
  - Obviously trash containment
  - Parking on shoulders of Lakewood Drive
  - Enforcement of dogs on leash laws
  - Flooding damages area s. of creek washed out parking lot before

## Map Comments

- Trailhead and way-finder signs
- Yes! Yes! Great job
  - Trash (check)
  - Restrooms (check)
  - Play area (natural) (check)
  - Thank you!
- No dogs
- Fenced off-leash area
- Beck's idea a tree house
- Beck's idea a zipline
- Recycling too?
- Great! (comment on bike lane) Shared parking arrangement with office buildings that back up to Lakewood would be good too.
- Since the volleyball court is not well maintained (or used very often), can the nature play area?
- This doesn't seem very worthwhile until the issue of the bridge (dam) is resolved (comment on drainage zone enhancements)
- Additional electrical capacity (220v) would allow for more activities like movies with the park (only 110v(10 amp) now in bathroom)
- Budget for nature play area seems low
- Edge of Lakewood drive roadway failing



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- Solve severe drainage/erosion problems, including undermining bulkhead walls and concrete patio and under large boulders. Washed out parking lot in the beginning.
- This old dam needs to be cleaned up to restore the “old” swimming hole.
- Family friendly- there is no place for 3-5 year olds to play. If you want a natural look then boulders in key places for climbing would be great.
- Must remain on-leash park for dogs
- Bilingual signs
- Message board/ kiosk for community use/support
- The park area on the other side of 360 (w/ waterfall) is full of trash, offleash dogs, noise. Please bring more policing to this area. All along the creek downstream for quite a bit.
- Definitely NO off leash, no fences- keep open
- Response: Can make natural looking fences. People use and love off-leash areas.