

Bolm District Park Community Values Meeting 10/10/23 Meeting Documentation

Meeting Date/Location:

Tues., Oct. 10, 2023 (5:30-7:00 p.m.) Cepeda Branch Library, 651 N Pleasant Valley Road, Austin, Texas

Objectives:

- Share information about process to develop a vision plan for the park.
- Gather community insights about what a park means to them and their needs/desires.
- Help identify issues to consider when planning and when doing engagement.
- Provide information on next steps.

Participants:

Project Team:

- Halff – Aaron Cooper, Brandon Hay, Tiffany
- Civic Collaboration – Diane Miller
- PARD – Charles Mabry, Adrienne O’Keefe, Rachel Morris

Stakeholders:

1. Amanda Blackwelder, Richland Estates Neighborhood Organization
2. Eliza Fanuel, Johnston Terrace Neighborhood Assn.
3. Pedro Hernandez, Vasquez Fields Neighborhood Association
4. Sheila Pharis, Mariposa Family Learning Center
5. Adam Ponder, Knollwood on the Colorado Neighborhood Association
6. Alice Roberts, Knollwood on the Colorado
7. Paul Shelton, Richland Estates Neighborhood Organization
8. Barbara Lewis, Johnston Terrace Neighborhood Assn.
9. Garrett Gray, Knollwood on the Colorado Neighborhood Association
10. Cullen McMorrow, Austin Ridge Riders Mountain Bike Club
11. Richie Fishbach, GoodPop
12. Craig Friedson, TOPO
13. Tony Curp, Kairoi Development

Meeting Content:

Project team shared information regarding the following:

- Team Introductions / Project Roles
- Purpose of Project and of Community Values Meeting
- Overview details regarding Bolm District Park (context, history, site info) and Vision Planning Process and next steps
- Sought input from participants on following four questions:
 - 1) What is your favorite park memory?
 - 2) What draws you and your friends and family to a park?

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- 3) What kinds of benefits can a park bring to your community?
 - 4) What's important for us to keep in mind when planning for Bolm Park?
- Shared information on community outreach and engagement methods and sought input on following three questions:
 1. Who else needs to be engaged?
 2. What are the best ways to reach people?
 3. Are there any locations that are best for tabling? Any events coming up?

Participant Input:

Overall Themes:

What kinds of benefits can a park bring to your community?

- Multifaceted Use – active and serene
- Water features; River
- Community connections
- Connectivity
- Shade
- Education – environmental/nature, history, culture
- Quality of life
- Mental health
- Relaxation
- Community / family events
- Flora / fauna
- Access to nature
- Gathering places, BBQ
- Connecting with pets
- Multi-generational activities
- Cultural interactivity / art
- Water access
- Safe and fun for the entire family

What's important for us to keep in mind when planning for Bolm Park?

- Homeless encampment
- Parking
- Safety, especially with the river
- Noise

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- Lighting
- Time to completion
- Environmental issues
- Parking hours
- Staying hydrated, access to drinking water
- Proximity to 183
- Nefarious activity
- Honoring the history
- Still having wildlife
- Traffic and safety

Community Outreach and Engagement

Suggestions for who else to engage and where to engage people:

- Comacho Activity Center
- Do pop-up event at Bom Park
- East Side Pedal Pushers
- Sonny's / Bike Shop
- Schools / engage high school students
- Govalle Park (between park and trail)
- Breweries
- Saturday events in the neighborhoods
- Yellow Bike Project
- Mi My Montopolis
- Montopolis Neighborhood Association
- Montopolis Recreation Center
- YMCA
- Allison Elementary
- Baty Elementary
- IDEA Schools

Detailed Group Discussion Notes:

1) What is your favorite park memory?

Group 1

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Family hiking, greenbelt, creek, rocks, birthday parties, trails, woods, bike riding, pockets of green, give back to park, bikes, woods, trail building, community, freedom

Group 2

BMX jumps, riding trails, swings, taking kids to park, picnics with family under trees

Group 3

Barbecues, granddaughter, playscape, kids birthdays, summer activities, baseball, swimming, walking dog, bike riding new paragraph

2) What draws you and your friends and family to a park?

Group 1

Events group events, group rides, central connectivity, gateway, quiet, peaceful, trails, flowers, canopy, access, multimodal, big entrance, solitude, peace, season session rides,

Group 2

Food trucks, coffee, bathrooms, clean bathrooms, parking, bird watching, snow cones, granite trail, swimming pools, benches, bus stop, BBQ, shade, peaceful, community garden, wildlife ducks / pond, interpretive signs, entertainment, wildflowers, walking trails, building for family reunion, community center

Group 3

Trails, fun, bike trails, fishing, skating, playground, BBQ, staying for long periods of time, trails, serenity, water feature, barbecues, walking, bike ride, health, natural state, bees, wildflowers

3) What kinds of benefits can a park bring to your community?

Group 1

Activities for kids, summer camps, programming, learning, water access, kayaks, floating / tubes, education- nature and history, East Austin Latino and Native American culture, art, murals, multi-generational, year round, all ages/abilities, activity programming, wildlife preserve

Group 2

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Quality of life, place for art, peace of mind/mental health, fun, mobility, access to nature, lunch outside, events, relax and read a book, BBQ pits, tables, nature, primitive hiking trails, trail markers, water feature, different locations for different events, trail connectivity

Group 3

Making new friends, BMX park, activate river, experience water, community gathering place, better landscape, flora and fauna, nature education, connect to nature, gathering place for yoga, pavilion, pavilion for parties and gatherings, restoration, hearing the water, air quality, mental and physical health, connect to hike and bike trail, pickle ball, integration of existing industrial elements (if safe), create intimate settings

4) What's important for us to keep in mind when planning for Bolm Park?

Group 1

Concerns about raves, guns, illegal activity, squatting, prostitution, noise, safety

Group 2

Safety (on trail; homelessness/drugs), close the park, lighting, someplace to cool down, swimming pool/splash pad, history, no reservations – should be first come - first served, homelessness issues, maintenance, access to the park, access for locals, boars, algae in the river, need water fountains and waste stations

Group 3

Concerns about amphitheater (don't want concerts), traffic because drive taken away, river cleanup, floodplain, parking, don't want people driving to the river, noise, lighting, swimming / paddle boarding in river too dangerous