



Summary Report of Community Meeting #1

September 16, 2020

Austin Parks Foundation is partnering with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department and the Govalle Community to renovate playground equipment and improve the field conditions at Govalle Neighborhood Park. The first step being taken in the design process is to gather input from the community so that APF can have a better understanding of the needs of the park and the community members that use it. Following the input, the information will then be used to align priorities with available funding.

The information presented at the meeting included the existing park conditions, objectives for the park renovation, a virtual tour of the park, access to the online survey, details about virtual community meetings, and the outline for future meetings.

Activity: Online Survey

The community members present at the meeting, as well as members who accessed the presentation after the meeting, had the opportunity to participate in an online survey requesting their feedback and opinions about the information presented to them. Within the survey they also had the chance to provide additional feedback about park needs, concerns, and ideas for park improvements. In total 62 responses were collected.

Online Survey Results - Community Meeting #1

Existing Playground Conditions: The top concerns for the existing playground are insufficient lighting and safety concerns with the proximity of the road. There were also some responses from community members detailing concerns about people experiencing homelessness in the park, as well as needles and trash left behind at the park. Other desired improvements for the park include improving the bathroom conditions and adding more shaded areas for the summer months.



Playground Standards: The community would like to see the implementation of natural play features such as logs to be used for balancing and jumping and the addition of structures to honor the history and culture of the neighborhood. Ideas to implement cultural appreciation include:

- Planting trees in honor of influential individuals
- Gardens with benches or plaques to honor important individuals
- Sculptures by local artists
- Before/After pictures of park renovation

Based on community response, 50.8% of responders use Govalle Park for walking/jogging, 16.1% use it for the playground, and 9.1% use it to walk/play with their dogs. A majority of responders also walk, drive, or bike to the park with 71% of responders using the park space once a week and 16% a few times a month.

The top amenities the community would like to have added to the park include more lighting, renovating the bathrooms, adding more picnic spaces, and sensory spaces.

The landscape improvements the community would like to see include planting more trees, having a community garden, and adding art throughout the park.

When asked for additional thoughts about improving the park as whole, the following ideas were suggested:

- Dog park
- More lights in open field
- More trees (for summer shade)
- Renovated bathrooms
- Community Garden
- Additional covered picnic spaces
- Sensory spaces

When asked for additional thoughts about activities/programs the community would like to see at the park, the following ideas were suggested:

- Yoga classes
- Soccer games
- Movie nights
- Sensory Time
- Live music
- Bike club (for bike trail nearby)