

THANK YOU FOR COMING TO THIS OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE

WALTER E. LONG METROPOLITAN PARK MASTER



This is an open house format. An introductory presentation will be held at 6:15 pm. After the presentation, please provide your feedback as you walk around to each table. City staff and members of the consultant team will be available to answer any questions and help facilitate the feedback process.



Your feedback is very important to help City officials and staff determine the best future for Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park. The intent of tonight's meeting is to overview the planning process, what we've heard from the public so far, and get additional feedback on the community's preferences for the park.



Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park is a regional park located in east Austin, situated just west of State Highway 130. The property includes 3,695 acres of parkland, including the 1,165 acre Lake Walter E. Long and approximately 765 acres of preserved habitats and the Travis County Expo Center grounds. Some of the existing facilities in the park include hike and bike trails, picnic areas, volleyball courts, boat ramps, and fishing piers. A skeet shooting range and model airplane area are also operated by organizations within the park.

WHAT?

- The City is developing an updated master plan for improvements to Walter E. Long Park.
- The Walter E. Long Metropolitan Park Master Plan will help determine the long-range vision for the entirety of the park, including areas currently used by other organizations.

WHY?

- A Master Plan identif a defined plan of action for moving forward with development and improvements to the park.
- It allows the City to s back from day-to-day decision-making to a the community preferences for the full
- It identifies character and factors shaping t community.
- It builds consensus and commitment between elected/appointed officials, City staff, and citizens.

WHO?

fies	 The process is being led
tion	by the Austin Parks and Recreation Department.
nd	•Halff Associates, Inc.
2	was selected by the City Council to help facilitate
step	the process and provide
ау	technical guidance.
assess	 The community will identify issues and
uture.	provide the vision for the
ristics	future by participating in
the	various forms of public
	engagement activities.
and	
en	





BENEFITS of walter e. long metropolitan park to AUSTIN

Parks and open space have a positive impact on the quality of life of communities. A high-quality and wellstructured park provides residents a healthier environment in which to live; positively impacts the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of children and adults; offers access to natural resources; and fosters a sense of pride in the community.

INDIVIDUAL & COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- Helps provide an overall higher quality of life
- Provides refuge of safety for at-risk youth, which can in turn help reduce juvenile delinquency
- Provides opportunities for people of all ages to be physically active, socially engaged, and cognitively stimulated

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Protects and preserves vital green spaces and critical wildlife habitat
- Educates visitors regarding the appropriate use of natural areas as recreational areas
- Contributes to clean air and water

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Increases property value of homes in close proximity to the park
- Can help attract new businesses to the community by improving the standard of living

PERSONAL HEALTH BENEFITS

- Access to parks and nature increases the frequency of exercise and improves psychological and social health
- Play is critical for child development
- Staying active can help reduce the risk of heart disease, diabetes, obesity, depression, and other health problems

AROUND WALTER E. LONG METROPOLITAN PARK

Existing Nearby Development



"Emerging Projects" Nearby



MetroRail Red Line



Sources: City of Austin "Emerging Projects" website and map; Economic & Planning Systems, Inc.

Existing Area Demographics

Item

Population

Households

Employees

Median Household Income

Sources: ESRI Business Analyst, Economic & Planning Systems, Inc.

Future Development

ltem

Households

Retail

Office/Commercial

Hotel

[1] Captures emerging development listed on slides 4 and 5; may not represent all development within a 5-mile radius.

Sources: ESRI; CoStar; Economic & Planning Systems, Inc.



E	Existing Demographics		
3	B-Mile	5-Mile	
ò	18,865	65,999	
3.2	4,714	17,589	
ŕ	3,526	22,852	
	\$42,018	\$49,661	

5 -		
Existing	Existing + Emerging ¹	Percent Increase
17,589	44,250	152%
741,303	4,233,752	471%
2,124,737	7,529,783	254%
728	1,528	110%



Respondent Demographics

Are you male or female?



Do you have any children under the age of 19 living in your home?



Have you or any members of your household ever visited Walter E. Long Park? If so, how often do you typically visit?



What is your zip code?



received)

Check the box that best describes how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements about Walter E. Long Park.



Improving the park will help to improve our City image.

I believe the park should be further developed to include passive

recreation amenities (e.g., camping, fishing, picnicking).

I believe the park should be further developed to include natural/environmental recreation amenities (e.g., boardwalks, nature trails, bird watching).

I feel that further development of the park can help

I believe the park should be further developed to include active recreation amenities (e.g., basketball courts, skate park, zip lines, better water access).

> I'm willing to pay more in fees to see new recreational amenities developed in Walter E. Long Park.

I'm willing to pay more in fees to see the quality of Walter E. Long Park and its existing amenities upgraded.

I believe the park should be further developed to include arts and cultural recreation amenities (e.g., outdoor classrooms, art exhibits, historical signage).

What is your approximate age?



Active water recreation (e.g., rowing, better swimming areas,

Playgrounds (e.g., traditional, adventure) Bicycle facilities (e.g., mountain bike trails, BMX track, veloway) Equipment rentals (e.g., bikes, canoes/kayaks, pedal boats) Sports courts (e.g., basketball, tennis, volleyball) Splash pad Sports fields (e.g., soccer, baseball) Golf amenities (e.g., golf course, driving range, mini golf) Skate park

Adventure amenities (e.g., ropes course, climbing wall, zip lines)

🔜 Strongly Agree 📁 Agree 🔳 Disagree 💻 Strongly Disagree 💷 No Opinion

BASED ON 355 SURVEY RESPONSES RECEIVED BY MARCH 28TH

Community Desires and Preferences

Please indicate how important or unimportant it is for the following **ACTIVE RECREATION** items to be provided or added in Walter E. Long Park.



Please indicate how important or unimportant it is for the following **PASSIVE RECREATION** items to be provided or added in Walter E. Long Park.



Recreational programs (e.g., summer day camps, fishing clinics)

Educational amenities (e.g., interpretive signage, demonstration gardens, outdoor classrooms) Public art (e.g., sculptures, gateway entrances, seasonal displays) Community meeting place Food and beverage (e.g., food trucks, restaurant) Interactive art (e.g., maze, artistic land forms)

Amphitheater (e.g., for concerts, movie in the park, special events) Games (e.g., outdoor chess/checkers, scavenger hunt, geocaching)

Cultural celebration space (e.g., heritage center, cultural displays)

Please indicate how important or unimportant it is for the following **ENVIRONMENTAL/NATURAL RECREATION** items to be provided or added in Walter E. Long Park.



Wetland restoration / Water quality improvements Wildlife observation (e.g., birding watching, observation tower, fish habitat) Green infrastructure (e.g., innovative stormwater treatment and reuse, roof gardens)

Vegetative restoration / Preserve tours

Gardens (e.g., sensory garden, butterfly garden)

Night vision observation / star gazing

Please indicate how important or unimportant it is for the following <u>ARTS AND</u> **CULTURE RECREATION** items to be provided or added in Walter E. Long Park.



Circulation



Hydrology



- The park contains an extensive wetland system, one of the largest in central Texas
- There are numerous on-site wetlands
- Walter E. Long Park supports a variety of terrestrial and aquatic plants that are important to the ecology of the area

GEND		
_	Critical Water Quality Zone	
	Wetlands	
	100 year floodplain	
	Highly erodible land	
	Not highly erodibe land	

Analysis and data presented represent preliminary working information and are subject to further refinement.

Vegetation



• Entire site is in the **Blackland Prairie** ecoregion

- The lake shoreline and more remote areas of the site are especially rich in wildlife habitat
- •There are two existing preserves; a tall grass prairie preserve, and an Indian grass preserve
- •The remnant Post Oaks in the **Eastern Sector** and the two Preserves contain rich wildlife habitats

LEGEND Existing Preserve Regularly maintained areas Canopy cover

Soils



- There is a heavy presence of clay and soils that are prone to erosion
- Gravelly clay soils and those with high shrinkswell potential are present, exhibiting cracks in response to drought
- Soil erosion is a concern at the shoreline and where steep slopes exist

LEGEND

eD2	Heiden clay
gF2	Heiden gravelly clay
InB	Houston Black clay
nC2	Houston Black clay
oD2	Houston Black gravelly cla
Tw	Tinn clay
VIB	Wilson clay loam
gC2	Altoga silty clay
BsB	Burleson clay
BtB	Burleson gravelly clay
BtC	Burleson gravelly clay
hC2	Chaney fine sandy loam
hF3	Ferris-Heiden complex
leB	Heiden clay
eC2	Heiden clay





ANALYSIS

A site analysis helps inform the design process by helping to determine the best use of land. This is accomplished through a focused study into the climatic, geographical, historical, legal, and infrastructural context of a specific site and its surrounding area. In this case, data was gathered and projected onto maps, which were then analyzed for information relevant to the potential program of the park.







Elevation Analysis



Current Park Program



- •The majority of existing park uses are located on the south and west sides of park
- Capital City Trap and Skeet **Club and Austin** Radio Control Association are located on north side of park

Analysis and data presented represent preliminary working information and are subject to further refinement.

Infrastructure

Higher Elevation



• Overhead utility lines border approximately 75% of the site

- Utility easements bisect the site and have a strong visual impact
- Most of these utility corridors appear to be well maintained

LEGEND

Vastewater Lines Water Lines Transmission Lines (50' buffer) Overhead Powerlines

Zoning



GR Community commercial GR-CO Community commercial (conditional) Community commercial -mixed use (conditional) Interim rural residential Interim single-family residence small lot IP-CO Industrial park (conditional)

Zoning as of 01/03/2018

ANALYSIS











a presented represent preliminary working information and are subject to further refinement.

Indian Grass Preserve

HIGH TRAFFIC ROAD MAY REQUIRE BUFFERING

EGEND



Very Limited Development Low Developability Moderate Developability High Developability

Existing Viewsheds



DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

This suitability map was developed using a combination of a physical data overlay and subjective analysis. Some of the data utilized was existing slope, soil erodibility, environmental features, and hydrologic data. This preliminary analysis will continue to evolve with the project and the design process, but is nonetheless a critical step in the planning process.

- Very limited development very limited construction, if any (e.g., wetlands, trails, etc.)
- Low developability potential for passive construction (e.g., trails, boardwalks, pavilions, etc.)
- Moderate developability potential for condensed construction (e.g., playgrounds, picnic areas, etc.)
- High developability potential for extensive construction (e.g., buildings, surface parking, athletic fields, infrastructure, etc.)