

November 29, 2023

Executive Summary

Grand Meadow Neighborhood Park

Park Concept Plan

The park concept planning process was completed in October of 2023. Austin Parks Foundation, in collaboration with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department and the Friends of Grand Meadow, is seeking administration approval for adoption of the plan.

The following guiding principles in design were established by community input when designing the park concept plan:

1. **Access:** Incorporate connections within the park to allow access for all to the entire park
2. **Shade:** Improve park comfort by increasing shade canopy and incorporating pavilions
3. **Community Hub:** Include park amenities that allow active recreation options for all
4. **Connection to Nature:** Foster connections with nature by preserving existing wildflowers and creating community gardens and food forest.
5. **Safety:** Lay out the space and include lighting to maintain visibility and provide buffers between active recreation and roadways.

Included in packet:

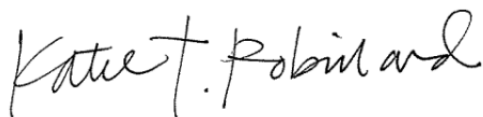
- Final Park Concept Plan graphic
- Final Implementation Recommendation
- Public Meeting #1 Summary Report
- Public Meeting #2 Summary Report
- Public Meeting #3 Summary Report

Additional supporting information can be found at:

<https://www.austintexas.gov/GrandMeadowPark>

Thank you for your support!

Submitted by:



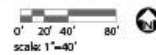
Katie Robillard, VP of Design & Implementation



Final Park Concept Plan Implementation Recommendation

November 29, 2023

After the eight-month-long community planning process, Austin Parks Foundation, in collaboration with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department and the Friends of Grand Meadow, is happy to present the Park Concept Plan for Grand Meadow Neighborhood Park. The plan is intended to guide development of the parkland in the years to come and provide an inclusive community space for all residents.





Park Amenity Priority and Implementation Strategy

Connectivity

Access within the park remained the top priority throughout the planning process. A ½ mile loop trail consistently ranked as the most desired amenity for the community.

A series of concrete walks will connect across the site to key access points and will converge at the center of the park, creating a hub of activity. These walks will provide easy access for park visitors who are walking, biking, utilizing public transport, or parking nearby.

Loop Trail

94% of respondents would like to see a loop trail in the park



An approximately ½ mile loop decomposed granite loop trail will wrap around the park, providing access through the park’s much-loved wildflower meadows and to the various recreational opportunities outlined below. Picnic areas will be placed at various points along the loop trail. There will also be opportunities to incorporate community art along the trail if funding becomes available. This network of concrete and decomposed granite walks will create an organizational framework for the other amenities within the park and should be the top priority.

Shade

Shade will be key to the usability and success of any amenity within the park, and was consistently highlighted as a top priority for the community. The park currently has existing trees along Alum Rock Rd and Panadero Rd, but is lacking street trees along Thaxton Rd. The interior of the park is also devoid of any existing trees.

Street trees will be planted along Thaxton Rd. to shade pedestrians and to buffer this busy road from the rest of the park. New trees will also be established along any new pathways around any new amenities. The proposed food forest (outlined below) will also serve as a shady refuge within the park.

A large pavilion is also proposed at the center of the park to provide additional shade and a central gathering area for the community.

This was consistently surveyed as a top priority for community members and will be a top priority

Shade

86% of respondents would like to see a pavilion in the park

72% chose shade as a top priority for the park (Survey #2)





for implementation. A second pavilion is also shown adjacent to the community garden and food forest. This pavilion will serve a more specialized group and should be implemented as the community garden is established.

Community Hub

When presented with two distinct preliminary layout plans, Preliminary Layout Plan #2 was more popular among the community because it included a variety of recreational opportunities for all ages. Having a place for community gatherings was also consistently a top priority for the planning process. The design of the park is meant to draw the community into the center of the park to gather and recreate together with the community garden and food forest on the east and a playground, play field, fitness area, multi-use sports court, and fenced-in dog park on the west side of the park.

Play

53% preferred traditional play equipment, 47% preferred nature play
57% preferred an informal play field



Of these recreational features, the playground and play field will be the top implementation priority to ensure families within the neighborhood have a welcoming place to visit and play. This play area will have a combination of traditional playground equipment and nature play. The fitness area will be the next priority as an extension of the playground and will include equipment that both adults and children can utilize.

The sports court and dog park consistently surveyed as a lower priority than the other features listed above, but still garnered support among survey respondents throughout the community engagement process. They will both be included in the Concept Plan and can be implemented if funding becomes available.

Community Garden & Food Forest

The Friends of Grand Meadow are active members of this community and stewards of Grand Meadow Park. They have advocated for a community garden and food forest from the beginning of the planning process and have also drawn support from Fruitful Commons. The survey responses we received through our community engagement efforts also showed a positive response to these features.

Once the initial framework of pathways are established, development of the community garden and food forest can begin and be implemented concurrently with the other park features. Given their specialized nature, we anticipate exploring unique funding sources to support these initiatives.



Wildflower Preservation

Open Space

79% of respondents would like to see wildflowers preserved at the park

Many written responses emphasized the desire to keep the natural feel of Grand Meadow and to preserve the existing wildflower meadows



wildflower meadow
77% of site



informal play field
8% of site



From the start of the planning process, it has been clear the community greatly values Grand Meadow Park's existing wildflower meadow for its ecological benefits and aesthetic value.

The proposed design preserves large swaths of wildflowers concentrated to the north of the site and smaller pockets throughout. The ½ mile loop trail is designed to take advantage of these existing wildflowers and provide greater access for the community.

Construction will be concentrated to the southern portion of the site, and disturbed portions of meadow will be restored as needed.

Safety

Proximity to street traffic, thorny vegetation, and off-leash dogs were among the top safety concerns for residents.

Existing trees will be preserved along Panadero Rd and Alum Rock Rd to maintain the existing natural barrier. Additional trees are proposed along Thaxton Rd to create a buffer and to create shade for pedestrians. In addition to tree buffers, open fencing will be installed along Panadero Rd and Alum Rock Rd to hinder children from nearing the street as they are playing and exploring the park. The dog park will be fully fenced to protect loose dogs from entering other areas of the park, and a small dog and large dog area will be provided for the safety of canine visitors.

Open sight lines from all three adjacent streets, but from Alum Rock Rd in particular, to the play area and pavilions will be preserved for visibility. The community garden will be fully fenced, and vegetation within the food forest should remain open enough to keep some visibility from Panadero Rd.

Lighting, one of the most requested park elements, will be included with the construction of the pavilions, and will be explored in more detail further into the design process.



Preliminary Estimate of Probable Cost

A preliminary itemized opinion of unit cost has been included in this plan. This is a high-level estimate for the purpose of identifying and securing funding for the implementation of specific park amenities. All future design and construction projects should include a more developed opinion of probable cost based on current costs, refined design work, labor, and competitive bidding.

ITEM	QTY.	UNIT	UNIT COST	ITEM TOTAL	NOTES
DESIGN FEES / PERMIT FEES					
design fees	1	allow	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 125,000.00	landscape design, civil engineering, and permit facilitation fees for SDP
COA site development permit	1	allow	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	
			Subtotal	\$ 160,000.00	
ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COSTS					
SITE PREPARATION					
site mobilization	1	allow	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	
site protection	1	allow	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	
			Subtotal	\$ 30,000.00	
PATHWAYS AND INFRASTRUCTURE					
earthwork & grading	1	allow	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	
water quality requirements	1	allow	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	
concrete walks	1	allow	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	
dg loop trail	1	allow	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	
large pavilion	1	allow	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	
			Subtotal	\$ 360,000.00	
PLAY AREA					
playground equipment	1	allow	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	
nature play	1	allow	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	
small play field	1	allow	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	
			Subtotal	\$ 555,000.00	
COMMUNITY GARDEN / FOOD FOREST					
community garden	1	allow	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	
food forest	1	allow		\$ -	*under trees and irrigation



Grand Meadow Park

Concept Plan

small pavilion	1	allow	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	
bee hives	1	allow		\$ -	TBD
			Subtotal	\$ 200,000.00	
SAFETY FEATURES					
perimeter fence	1	allow	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	
lighting and electrical service	1	allow	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	
			Subtotal	\$ 100,000.00	
TREE PLANTING AND RESTORATION					
trees and irrigation	1	allow	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	
soil amendments	1	allow	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	<i>to improve soil throughout site</i>
native meadow restoration	1	allow	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	<i>seeding of turf and native area supplements</i>
			Subtotal	\$ 105,000.00	
SITE FURNISHINGS					
informational kiosk	1	each	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	<i>at entry</i>
site furnishings	1	allow	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	<i>picnic tables, benches, bike racks, mutt mitts</i>
drinking fountain and water service	1	allow	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	<i>including water source connection and permitting</i>
			Subtotal	\$ 85,000.00	
RECREATION / MISC. IMPROVEMENTS					
basketball court	1	allow	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	
exercise area	1	allow	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	
dog park	1	allow	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	
community art	1	allow	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	TBD
			Subtotal	\$ 175,000.00	
Construction Subtotal				\$ 1,610,000.00	
15% Contingency				\$ 241,500.00	
ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION BUDGET NEEDED				\$ 1,851,500.00	



Acknowledgments

Throughout the entire process, the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, provided invaluable support to ensure the design process and key decisions met the requirements of public parkland. Rachel Morris, PLA served as the primary representative for the Parks Department. Austin Parks Foundation is extremely grateful for this support and the continued collaboration with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department to help bring community-initiated park projects to life in Austin.

Special thanks for the commitment and volunteerism of the individuals who applied for design services through Austin Parks Foundation and served on the Park Design Committee throughout the duration of the design process. Cecilia Hogan led the effort as chair of the Park Design Committee with many hours of time, endless support, and a strong commitment to the park's future. The Park Design Committee members included Ashley Shepherd, Matthew Lee Willis, and Alana Jordan Crabtree. We believe the design accurately reflects the desires of the community because of this close collaboration between Austin Parks Foundation, the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, and the Park Design Committee at every stage of the process.

We also want to thank Fruitful Commons for their support and expertise during the design and community engagement phases. Their involvement played a crucial role in shaping this project, and contributed to the success of the entire process.



Community Meeting #1 - Summary Report

March 7, 2023

Community Engagement

Austin Parks Foundation is partnering with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department and the community to design a Concept Plan for Grand Meadow Neighborhood Park. An important priority is to gather community feedback and public input to shape the vision planning process.

Prior to the first meeting, Austin Parks Foundation placed signs around the park informing neighbors of the upcoming Community Meeting #1 and coordinated with members of PARD to update the COA website with relevant information. Members of the Park Design Committee also reached out to the surrounding community to spread the word by passing out flyers, emailing content, and posting to social media.



Austin Parks Foundation, the City of Austin's Parks & Recreation Department and Friends of Grand Meadow Park are holding the first virtual public input meeting for the future Concept Plan. Existing park conditions will be discussed, and the public can weigh in on park amenities that they would like to see.

Fundación de Parques de Austin, El Departamento de Parques y Recreación de la Ciudad de Austin y Los Amigos de Grand Meadow Parque llevarán a cabo la primera reunión virtual de aportes públicos para el futuro plan conceptual. Se discutirán las condiciones existentes del parque y el público puede dar su opinión sobre las comodidades del parque que les gustaría ver.

Join us and help shape the future of this community gem!

¡Únase a nosotros y ayude a dar forma al futuro de esta joya comunitaria!

PUBLIC INPUT MEETING #1

REUNIÓN DE OPINIÓN PÚBLICA #1

Tuesday, March 7 | 6:00-7:00pm
To join virtually, please visit:

Martes 7 de Marzo | 6:00-7:00pm
Para unirse virtualmente, visite:



austintexas.gov/GrandMeadowPark

austintexas.gov/GrandMeadowPark



Community Meeting #1

The first community meeting was held virtually from 6:00pm - 7:00pm on Tuesday, March 7th. The agenda for the meeting included a high-level overview of Austin Parks Foundation and the Park Vision Planning process, a review of the existing park conditions, and an introduction of the



community survey. After the formal presentation, members of APF and PARD answered questions from community members. The survey was open to the public immediately following the conclusion of the virtual meeting.

Project Introduction

During the project introduction, members of APF gave an overview of Austin Parks Foundation's mission to make parks healthier, safer, and more accessible for every Austinite. They also introduced APF's Park Design Services. Friends of Grand Meadow, a stewardship organization dedicated to building community around the park, was also introduced as the Park Design Committee. Their group will be responsible for engaging the local community in the process.

Grand Meadow Neighborhood Park will undergo APF's Overall Park Planning process. This year-long process guides the Adopt-A-Park group through a visioning process to create a Park Concept Plan that will be submitted to the City of Austin for official adoption. Community outreach is crucial to the design process and will be facilitated through three community meetings and a series of public surveys. All project information can be found on the project webpage hosted by PARD.

The presentation also clearly outlined project roles as seen below:

Parks and Recreation	Austin Parks Foundation	Park Design Committee	Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land owner • Ensure process complies with COA standards • Final decision • Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leading effort: community engagement and design • Support parks in Austin • Main point of contact during process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official Adopt-A-Park Group • Stewardship of the park • Outreach for community engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in public process to voice preferences in future park development

Existing Park Conditions

Once the project was introduced, APF gave an overview of the site context and existing conditions at Grand Meadow Park.

Located at 8022 Thaxton Drive, this nearly ten-acre property, designated as a wildflower meadow, is surrounded by single-family homes. This park is relatively flat and open with trees along the edges of the property.



Sidewalks currently run along Thaxton Rd, Pandero Dr, and Alum Rock Dr. There is currently no parking on-site, but there are three bus stops located at the north, south, and west edges of Grand Meadow Park. A monument sign is located at the northwestern corner of the site, as well as a small nature play area on the western edge of the park, and a large mechanical structure at the northern edge.

Current Conditions



The park is located in a primarily single-family neighborhood. Blazier Elementary, Blazier Intermediate, Palm Elementary, and Hillcrest Elementary Schools are all within 1 mile of the project. Onion Creek Metro Park, Marble Creek Metro, and McKinney Heights Park, and several other green spaces are also in close proximity.

Site Context

1. Grand Meadow Park
2. Onion Creek Metro Park
3. Hillcrest Elementary School
4. Palm Elementary School
5. Blazier Elementary School
6. Blazier Intermediate School
7. Marble Creek Greenbelt
8. Onion Creek
9. McKinney Heights Park
10. Goodnight Ranch





Grand Meadow Park

Concept Plan

Before introducing the survey, APF outlined the typical elements of a Neighborhood Park as:

- Backbone of Austin's park system
- Respond to demographic and cultural characteristics of neighborhoods
- Provide basic recreational opportunities close to home
- Ideally, all citizens have easy access to a neighborhood park within one mile of their residences
- 2-30 acres in size
- Traditional recreation opportunities such as playgrounds, basketball and tennis courts, open play areas, and picnic tables
- Less traditional recreation opportunities such as wildflowers, native plants, less intensive maintenance techniques
- Does not typically include: dog parks, splash pads, pools

The full presentation for Meeting #1 is recorded [here](#).



Survey #1 - Summary Report

March 31, 2023

Survey Introduction

Instructions on how to access the community survey and an introduction to some of the programming elements included in the survey were provided during Community Meeting #1.

The survey was open to the public on the COA webpage (<https://www.austintexas.gov/GrandMeadowPark>) from March 7th - March 31st. A total of 82 responses were submitted

Survey Results

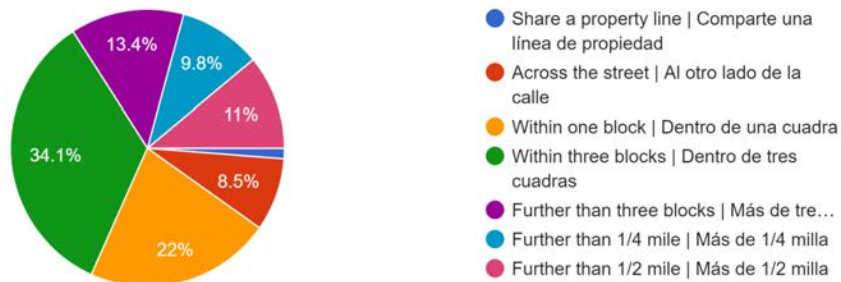
The first goal of the survey was to gain a better understanding of the community demographics. Some of the key demographic findings were as follows:

- Most survey participants heard about this project from their neighbors, Friends of Grand Meadow, or from the NextDoor app.
- Approximately 56% of participants have children between the ages of 0-18 living in their households.
- Children between ages 2-5 years were the most common among survey participants.
- Over 92% of survey respondents own a house or duplex.
- Aside from Grand Meadow Park, Onion Creek Metro was the most popular park used by families in this neighborhood. Onion Creek Metro Park is located within a half mile of Grand Meadow Park. It has a large trail system, open play fields, parking, and a soccer complex.

Samples of the content are below:

Where do you live in relation to the park? | ¿Dónde vives en relación con el parque?

82 responses





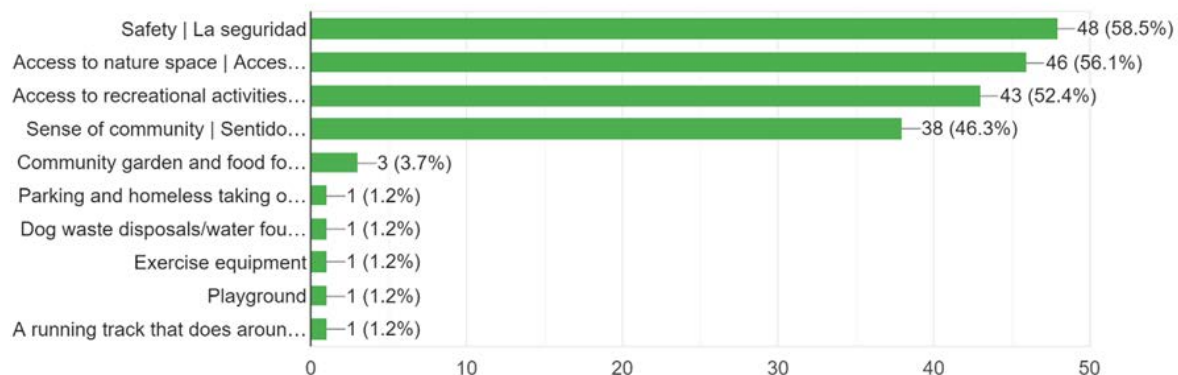
Another goal of the survey was to gather content on what the top values and priorities are for the park among the community. The key demographic findings were as follows:

- Safety was the most important value among respondents. Thorny vegetation, adequate lighting, fencing, and general protection from busy roads were all top concerns.
- A loop trail was the most popular option for park elements. Additional shade, picnic areas, shaded seating, and trees were all popular responses.
- A strong focus on preserving and including natural elements in the park was also consistent throughout the survey. Preserving existing wildflowers, planting more trees, and keeping impervious cover to a minimum were among the top desires for the park.
- The addition of a community garden and food forest were also among the top priorities for the park. APF will study options for how to best incorporate these uses while still incorporating other popular elements.

Samples of the content are below:

Which value is most important to you for the future park? | ¿Qué valor es más importante para ti para el futuro parque?

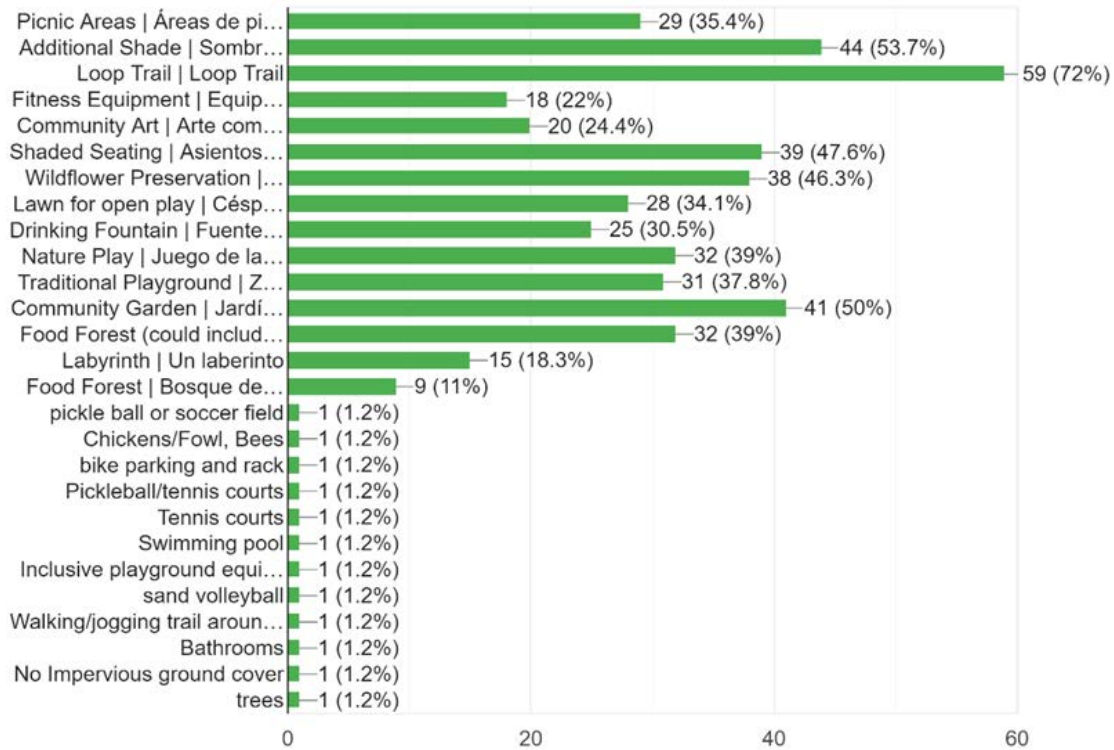
82 responses





Which park elements would you most like to see included in the park? Check your Top 5 | ¿Qué elementos del parque te gustaría ver incluidos en el parque? Revisa tus 5 principales

82 responses



The full survey results for Survey #1 are recorded [here](#).

Most importantly, the online survey results indicate that the public envisions a Grand Meadow Park that should ultimately reflect their community, provide a safe place to exercise, bring children to play, and gather. Access to nature was further stressed as an important value along with providing the community with access to a variety of recreational opportunities.



Community Meeting #2 - Summary Report

May 20, 2023

Community Engagement

Austin Parks Foundation is partnering with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department and the community to design a Concept Plan for Grand Meadow Neighborhood Park. An important priority is to gather community feedback and public input to shape the vision planning process. In order to reach as many community members as possible, APF, PARD, and Friends of Grand Meadow took the following steps:

- **Signage:** 4 signs with details on the upcoming Community Meeting #2 and QR code to access the COA Grand Meadow project webpage (in both English and Spanish) were placed around the park, near bus stops, and facing streets and sidewalks where they would be the most visible.
- **Email:** An email including details of the upcoming Community Meeting #2 was sent to those who had signed up for email communication on the COA Grand Meadow webpage or opted in to receive emails in Community Survey #1. Emails were also sent to the following groups: Blazier, Palm, and Perez Elementary Parent Support and PTA's; local HOA's; and Vanessa Fuentes (District 2 Council Member).
- **Flyers:** With the help of Friends of Grand Meadow, 240 flyers (in both English and Spanish) were distributed at APF's Movie in the Park at Dove Springs Park, canvassed on streets in the surrounding neighborhood, and given to following local businesses: Star Market, Texaco, Fresh Donuts, and Goodnight Ranch Townhomes. *Example flyers below:*



Austin Parks Foundation, the City of Austin's Parks & Recreation Department and Friends of Grand Meadow Park are holding the second public input meeting for the future Concept Plan.

Preliminary park concepts will be shared, and the public can weigh in on park amenities that they would like to see. Join us and help shape the future of this community gem!

COMMUNITY MEETING #2

Saturday, May 20 | 10:00-11:30am
at Grand Meadow Neighborhood Park
coffee and snacks provided

For more information, visit us:



austintexas.gov/GrandMeadowPark



Austin Parks Foundation (APF, por sus siglas en inglés), el Departamento de Parques y Recreación de la Ciudad de Austin (PARD, por sus siglas en inglés), y los amigos del Parque Grand Meadow llevarán a cabo la segunda Reunión Comunitaria para el futuro Plan Conceptual.

Durante la reunión se compartirán los conceptos preliminares para el parque, y el público podrá expresar su opinión acerca de las amenidades que le gustaría que se incluyeran en el plan. ¡Acompáñenos y ayúdenos a darle forma al futuro de esta joya de nuestra comunidad!

REUNIÓN COMUNITARIA #2

Sábado 20 de mayo | 10:00 a 11:30 a.m.
en el Parque del Vecindario Grand Meadow

Se servirá comida y café

Para más información, visite:



austintexas.gov/GrandMeadowPark





- **Nextdoor Post:** PARD provided a post on the neighborhood application “Nextdoor” in an effort to notify residents of the community meeting.

Community Meeting #2

The second community meeting was held in-person at Grand Meadow Park on Saturday, May 20th from 10-11:30am. Austin Parks Foundation provided food, coffee, and other beverages for the attending community members. Friends of Grand Meadow also provided a table with additional beverages, free seeds, and a coloring table for children. The first 20 people to arrive also received a grow kit provided by Fruitful Commons.



Three presentation boards with information on the results from Survey #1 and two proposed layout plans for the park were displayed throughout the duration of the gathering. QR codes were also provided for community members who wanted to access the official City of Austin Grand Meadow webpage or take the survey in person.

Spanish translation services were also provided after the initial presentation.



Concept Presentation

Austin Parks Foundation, with the support of City of Austin's Parks and Recreation Department, began the meeting by presenting an overview of APF's Overall Park Planning process, the work done on Grand Meadow to-date, and the next steps for the project.

The presentation also included a recap of the results from Community Survey #1. These survey results include crucial insights into the surrounding community and ultimately influenced the designs of the two concepts that were presented during Community Meeting #2. Full survey results were posted on the official COA Grand Meadow webpage. See below for the top survey highlights that were displayed at Community Meeting #2:

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What is APF's Overall Park Planning Process?
Process guides Adopt-A-Park groups through visioning and creating an adopted Park Concept Plan.

Process:

- Year-long process
- Farm Park Design Committee
- Conduct Site Inventory and Analysis
- Community Outreach including three public meetings
- Primary Outcome: Adopted Park Concept Plan by City of Austin

Awarded:

- Once a year to neighborhood, school or pocket parks only
- Spring Application date
- Grand Meadow Neighborhood Park is the 2022-2023 recipient

Who is involved?

Parks and Recreation	Austin Parks Foundation	Park Design Committee	Community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land owner Ensure process complies with COA standards Final decision Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leading effort Community engagement and energy Support parks in Austin Main point of contact during process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official Adopt-A-Park Group Ownership of the park Outreach for community engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in public process to voice preferences in future park development

What is a neighborhood park?

- Backbone of Austin's park system
- Respond to demographic and cultural characteristics of neighborhoods
- Provide basic recreational opportunities close to home
- Ideally, all citizens have easy access to a neighborhood park within one-mile of their residences
- 2-30 acres in size
- Traditional recreation opportunities such as playgrounds, basketball and tennis courts, open play areas, and picnic tables
- Less traditional recreation opportunities such as wildflowers, native plants, less intensive maintenance techniques
- Does not typically include: splash pads and pools

What is the project timeline?

- March 7, 2023 - Community Meeting #1
Input on Park Amenities, open online survey
- May 2023 - Community Meeting #2
On-site meeting for preliminary layout options for public comment / input on phasing and layout, open online survey
- July 2023 - Community Meeting #3
Final draft plans for comment
- Early Fall - COA PARD for official review and adoption

scan for more project info:

WHAT WE HEARD COMMUNITY SURVEY #1

Where do you live in relation to the park?
65% of respondents live within three blocks of Grand Meadow Park.

- Make a property line / Compare via Google Maps
- Across the street / At the side of the street
- Within one block / Within 200 feet of the street
- Within three blocks / Within 600 feet of the street
- Further than three blocks / More than 600 feet
- Further than 1/2 mile / More than 1/2 mile
- Further than 1/2 mile / More than 1/2 mile

Which value is most important to you for the future park?
Safety, access to nature, and access to recreational activities were all top priorities.

- Access to nature and recreation: 48.04%
- Access to recreational activities: 41.52%
- Safety: 38.44%
- Community garden and trails: 13.7%
- Park amenities and services: 11.2%
- Stop waste and litter: 11.2%
- Exercise equipment: 11.2%
- Playground: 11.2%
- Arranging trash that isn't theirs: 11.2%

Does your household have children? If so, how old?
Over 50% of respondents have children in their household.

- 0-2 years (Age): 8.63%
- 2-5 years (Age): 29.04%
- 6-10 years (Age): 16.15%
- 10-18 years (Age): 18.18%
- None: 38.04%

What is the primary reason you think you will use Grand Meadow Park in the future?
Responses were split fairly evenly between a place to bring children or dogs, a place to exercise, connect with nature, and gather with family & community.

- Place to exercise / Light jog / Walk / Run: 20.0%
- Place to connect with nature / Exercise / Gather with family or friends: 18.0%
- Place to bring your dog / Light walk: 18.0%
- Place to bring your children / Light jog: 18.0%
- Community / Family gathering / Connect: 18.0%
- Connect with nature / Exercise / Community: 18.0%
- Community garden with the kids: 18.0%
- Bring my own dog, and walk every 10: 18.0%

Please describe where you currently live?
Over 90% of respondents own homes nearby.

- I live in a house or duplex / I share with a partner: 85.0%
- I live in an apartment / I share with a partner: 10.0%
- I own a house or duplex / I buy directly on the street or duplex: 5.0%
- I own an apartment / I buy directly on the street or duplex: 0.0%
- I live in my parents' / relative's / friend's home / I do not live in a house or duplex: 0.0%

Which park elements would you most like to see included in the park?
The most popular park elements included a loop trail, additional shade, and wildlife preservation. A food forest and community garden were also popular responses.

- Loop trail: 89.07%
- Additional shade: 88.7%
- Wildlife preservation: 82.07%
- Food forest: 25.04%
- Community garden: 25.04%
- Additional playground equipment: 25.04%
- Additional seating: 25.04%
- Additional lighting: 25.04%
- Additional signage: 25.04%
- Additional art: 25.04%
- Additional water features: 25.04%
- Additional trees: 25.04%
- Additional plants: 25.04%
- Additional flowers: 25.04%
- Additional grass: 25.04%
- Additional mulch: 25.04%
- Additional soil: 25.04%
- Additional compost: 25.04%
- Additional fertilizer: 25.04%
- Additional irrigation: 25.04%
- Additional drainage: 25.04%
- Additional fencing: 25.04%
- Additional gates: 25.04%
- Additional locks: 25.04%
- Additional keys: 25.04%
- Additional tools: 25.04%
- Additional equipment: 25.04%
- Additional materials: 25.04%
- Additional labor: 25.04%
- Additional contractors: 25.04%
- Additional vendors: 25.04%
- Additional suppliers: 25.04%
- Additional distributors: 25.04%
- Additional manufacturers: 25.04%
- Additional importers: 25.04%
- Additional exporters: 25.04%
- Additional wholesalers: 25.04%
- Additional retailers: 25.04%
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- Additional importers: 25.04%
- Additional exporters: 25.04%
- Additional wholesalers: 25.04%
- Additional retailers: 25.04%

GRAND MEADOW NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
MAY 20, 2023

Following this project overview, APF explained the two concepts also on display at the meeting. The design of these concepts were intentionally very different in terms of feel and programming in order to elicit clear feedback from the community.

Members of the community were then encouraged to take a closer look at both concepts. Members of APF and PARD were present to answer any questions. Attendees were also encouraged to fill out the online survey. See below for more information on Survey #2.



Preliminary Layout Plan #1

This layout is intentionally informal and low-maintenance, showcasing the park's existing natural resources by preserving large swaths of wildflowers. A 1/3 miles decomposed granite loop trail invites visitors to meander through the wildflower meadows while discovering strategically placed pockets of exercise equipment, picnic areas, community art installations, and educational signage.













The park's central feature is a large picnic pavilion, serving as a community hub that connects the community garden, good forest, and nature play area, bringing people of all ages together. Additionally, the park features a partially-fenced, informal play lawn designed to provide children with a safe and stimulating environment that fosters exploration and creativity.

PRELIMINARY LAYOUT PLAN #1

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FEATURES

 A PAVILION including lighting, picnic tables, teaching area	 B COMMUNITY GARDEN including individual and community plots, water access, tool storage	 C FOOD FOREST managed by community garden groups, variety of edible plants
 D WILDFLOWER MEADOW preserve and enhance large swaths of existing meadow	 E 1/3 MILE LOOP TRAIL 5' wide, decomposed granite	 F NATURAL PLAY FIELD cleared area for exploratory play, including logs and rocks
 G NATURE PLAY including natural play elements such as logs, berrns and boulders	 H COMMUNITY ART TBD	 I EXERCISE EQUIPMENT to match playground equipment
 J PICNIC AREAS including picnic tables, trash and recycling, grills	 K EXISTING STREET PARKING along Alum Rock Dr. and in adjacent neighborhood	 L BEE HIVES managed on-site, must meet all PARD Standards for safety



GRAND MEADOW NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
Preliminary Layout Plan #2
MAY 20, 2023



Preliminary Layout Plan #2

This layout maximizes Grand Meadow Park's nearly 10-acres to create a lively hub for recreational activity. A 1/2 mile loop encircles the park by connecting the existing sidewalks along Thaxton Rd., Panadero Dr., and Alum Rock Dr..



Grand Meadow Park Concept Plan

A central path within the park connects various zones of activity. One side of the park clusters the food forest and community garden, along with a small parking lot and pavilion. Another area groups a traditional playground, basketball, and pickleball courts, exercise equipment, a picnic pavilion, and a large play field. A fenced dog park is set apart from the other activities to give furry friends a place to play. The park is also fenced around the perimeter to protect visitors from nearby traffic.

Existing wildflowers are strategically located throughout the park, providing a beautiful natural backdrop for all activities while also serving as a buffer between the park and nearby roads.

PRELIMINARY LAYOUT PLAN #2

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Existing wildflowers are strategically located throughout the park, providing a beautiful natural backdrop for all activities while also serving as a buffer between the park and nearby roads.

FEATURES

 A PAVILION including lighting, picnic tables, seating area	 B COMMUNITY GARDEN including individual and community plots, water access, tool storage	 C FOOD FOREST managed by community garden group, variety of edible plants
 D WILDFLOWER MEADOW preserve and enhance pockets of existing meadow	 E CONCRETE TRAIL 5' wide, concrete	 F PLAY FIELD traditional play field for sports and free play, well maintained
 G TRADITIONAL PLAY typical play equipment for all ages	 H EXERCISE EQUIPMENT to match play equipment	 I PICKLEBALL COURTS (2) fenced courts, including lighting
 J BASKETBALL COURT including lighting	 K PARKING LOT for approximately 20 cars	 L DOG PARK fully fenced, with waste stations, small dog area, water access



GRAND MEADOW NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
Preliminary Layout Plan #2
MAY 20, 2023



The presentation boards for Meeting #2 are recorded [here](#).



Survey #2 - Summary Report

June 26, 2023

Survey Introduction

Instructions on how to access the survey were provided in-person at Community Meeting #2. QR codes were also provided in-person for those who wished to take the survey while at the meeting. The survey was also open to the public on the COA webpage (<https://www.austintexas.gov/GrandMeadowPark>) from May 20 - June 26.

Community Engagement

In order to gather as much feedback as possible from community members, APF, PARD, and Friends of Grand Meadow took the following steps:

- **Signage:** 4 signs including a QR code to access Survey #2 and the COA Grand Meadow webpage (in both English and Spanish) were placed around the park, near bus stops, and facing streets and sidewalks where they would be the most visible.
- **Email:** For Community Survey #2, APF sent an email with information on how to take Survey #2 to those who had signed up for email communication on the COA Grand Meadow webpage or opted in to receive emails in Community Survey #1 a week prior to the 06/26/23 deadline. Email reminders were also sent to local HOA's, School PTA's, Neighborhood Associations, and Vanessa Fuentes (District 2 Council Member).
- **Flyers:** With the help of Friends of Grand Meadow, 200 flyers with instructions on how to access Survey #2 (in both English and Spanish) were distributed throughout the community. 100 of these flyers were distributed to local businesses including: Quambala Salon, Almas Bakery, Texaco, and Star Market. 100 more flyers were posted on community mailboxes, and canvassed door to door.
- **Newsletter:** Vanessa Fuentes added a reminder and instructions to take the survey in her newsletter, which gained a lot of engagement.
- **Nextdoor Post:** PARD provided a post on the neighborhood application "Nextdoor" in an effort to notify residents of the survey.

Survey Results

A total of 156 responses were received.

The first goal of the survey was to gain a better understanding of the community demographics and to understand which community members were taking the survey. Some of the key demographic findings were as follows:

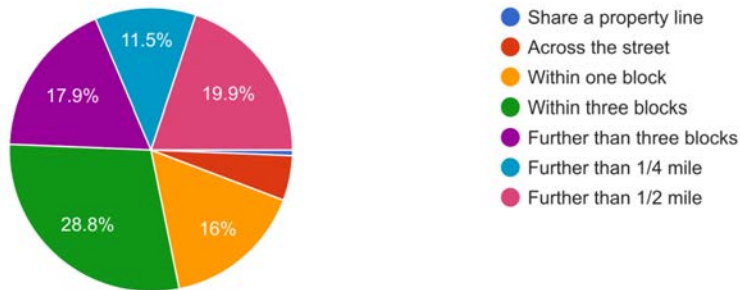


- Approximately 55% of participants have children between the ages of 0-18 living in their households.
- 38% of respondents were between the ages of 35-44 and 34% were between the ages of 25-34.
- 96% of respondents speak in English in their homes. 19% of respondents speak Spanish in their homes.
- Over 89% of survey respondents own a house or duplex.

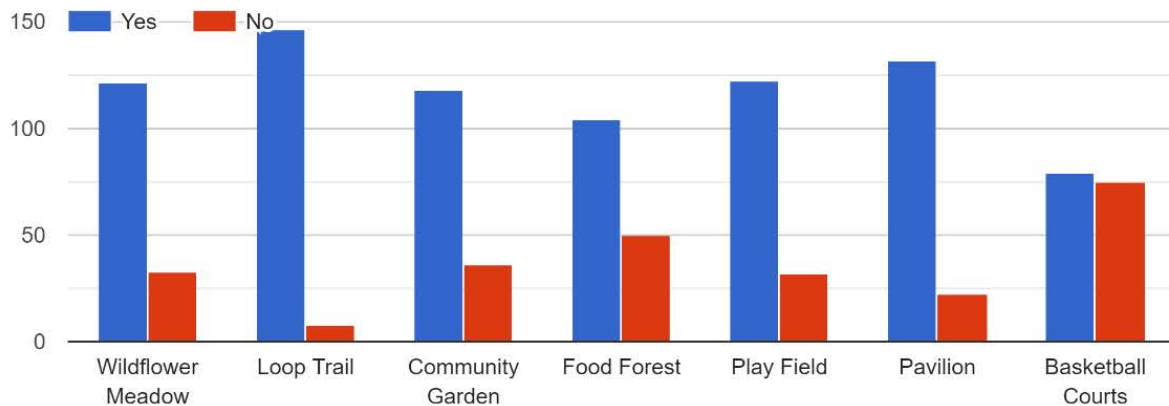
Samples of the content are below:

Where do you live in relation to the park?

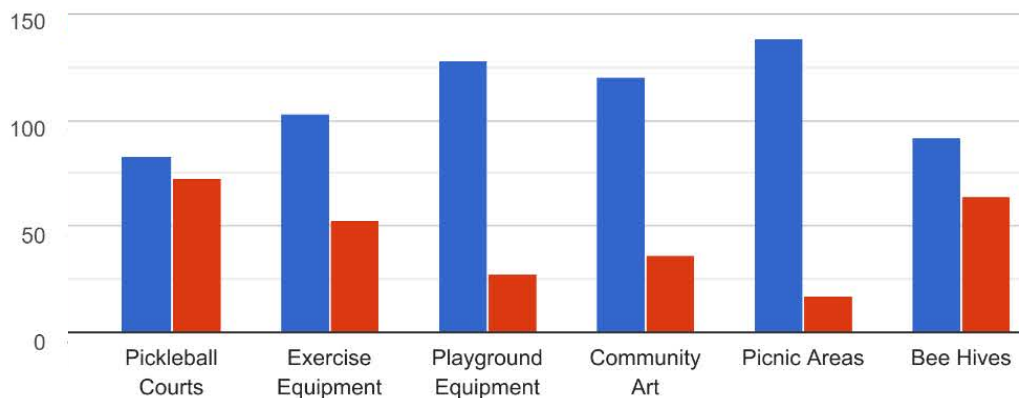
156 responses



Another goal of the survey was to gather content on what features were most desired for Grand Meadow Park. See below for an example of this content as well as the key takeaways:



-



Key Takeaways:

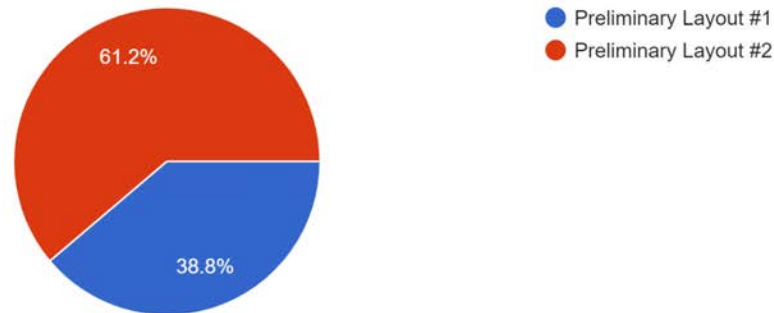
- Wildflower meadow(s), a loop trail, play field, pavilion, and playground equipment all had overwhelming support from respondents and will be included in the next iteration of the layout plan.
- The community garden and food forest were highly requested features by the Friends of Grand Meadow group and were also popular among survey respondents. These will be included in the next iteration of the layout plan.
- Exercise equipment and community art were all popular programming options and will be included in the next iteration of the layout plan. The next community meeting will explore how these elements should be prioritized as funding becomes available.
- The majority of respondents also wished to see basketball courts, pickleball courts, and beehives, but these options were less popular. The next community meeting will likely explore if these program elements should be included in the final layout plan.

Survey respondents were also asked to choose which of the two concepts they preferred. The majority of respondents preferred Preliminary Layout #2. Many responses mentioned a preference for Preliminary Layout #2 because it included a variety of programming opportunities for the larger community. Many responses also mentioned a desire for a combination of both concepts- specifically for the natural elements and loop trail from Preliminary Layout #1 to be combined with the programming elements (dog park, sports courts, etc.) from Preliminary Layout #2.



Which of these concepts do you prefer?

152 responses



Finally, the survey asked several questions on specific programming elements including:

- Fenced-in dog park
- Loop trail
- Surface parking lot
- Play field
- Playground equipment
- Lighting

These survey results provided crucial insight into community priorities, hopes, and concerns for the park and will ultimately determine the design for the next iteration of the plan. The next layout plan will combine the most requested elements from Preliminary Layout Plan #1 and #2, and will give the community a final chance to comment on the design for Grand Meadow Park, including which features should be prioritized as funding becomes available.

The full survey results for Survey #2 are recorded [here](#).



Community Meeting #3 - Summary Report

September 26, 2023

Community Engagement

Austin Parks Foundation is partnering with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department and the community to design a Concept Plan for Grand Meadow Neighborhood Park. An important priority is to gather community feedback and public input to shape the vision planning process. In order to reach as many community members as possible, APF, PARD, and Friends of Grand Meadow took the following steps:

- **Signage:** 4 signs with details on the upcoming Community Meeting #3 and QR code to access the COA Grand Meadow webpage (in both English and Spanish) were placed around the park, near bus stops, and facing streets and sidewalks where they would be the most visible.
- **Email:** An email including details of the upcoming Community Meeting #3 was sent to those who had signed up for email communication on the COA Grand Meadow webpage or opted in to receive emails in Community Survey #1 & #2. Emails were also sent to the following groups: Blazier, Palm, and Perez Elementary Parent Support and PTA's; local HOA's; and Vanessa Fuentes (District 2 Council Member).
- **Flyers:** Digital flyers (in both English and Spanish) were provided to Friends of Grand Meadow to distribute to their contact list. *Example flyers below:*

PLEASE JOIN US!
GRAND MEADOW PARK
CONCEPT PLAN

This park is undergoing an overall planning process with Austin Parks Foundation and the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department. This process will result in an officially approved Concept Plan. We are seeking community input to directly inform the design of this plan!

Please join us virtually for:

COMMUNITY MEETING #3
Tuesday, September 26 | 6:30-7:30pm

For more information or to register for the meeting, please visit:



austintexas.gov/GrandMeadowPark

Members of PARD and APF will be sharing the proposed Concept Plan, answering questions, and introducing the final survey.

¡POR FAVOR ACOMPÁÑENOS!
PLAN CONCEPTUAL PARA EL
PARQUE GRAND MEADOW

Este parque está pasando actualmente por un proceso de planificación total con Austin Parks Foundation (APF, por sus siglas en inglés) y el Departamento de Parques y Recreación de la Ciudad de Austin (PARD, por sus siglas en inglés). Este proceso resultará en un Plan Conceptual aprobado oficialmente. ¡Estamos buscando retroalimentación de la comunidad que ayude de forma directa a darle forma al diseño de este plan!

Por favor acompáñenos virtualmente por:

REUNIÓN COMUNITARIA #3
el martes 26 de septiembre | 6:30 a 7:30pm

Para obtener más información y acceso a la reunión, por favor visite:



austintexas.gov/GrandMeadowPark

Los miembros de PARD y APF estarán compartiendo el Plan Conceptual propuesto para el Parque Grand Meadow, respondiendo preguntas, y presentando la encuesta final.





Community Meeting #3

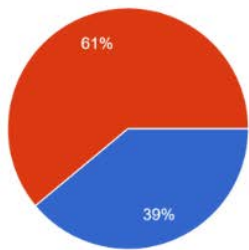
The third community meeting was held virtually from 6:30pm - 7:30pm on Tuesday, September 26th. The agenda for the meeting included a high-level overview of Austin Parks Foundation and the Park Vision Planning process, a review of the previous two layout plans shared during Community Meeting #2, a review of the survey results from Survey #2, the proposed concept plan, and an introduction to the final community survey. After the formal presentation, members of APF and PARD answered questions from community members. The survey was open to the public immediately following the conclusion of the virtual meeting.

Preliminary Layout Plan & Survey Results Recap

Key survey results were reviewed prior to the presentation of the Concept Plan. According to the survey results, Layout Plan #2 was slightly more popular with 61%. Most respondents included that they preferred this option because it included more amenities for the whole neighborhood.

Although Layout Plan #1 was less popular, respondents still wished to maintain the natural feel of the park and desired a loop trail. Many responses mentioned that some combination of both concepts would be the most ideal. *See below for preferred elements from each layout plan:*

Which concept do you prefer?



- Preliminary Layout #1
- Preliminary Layout #2

Layout Plan #1	Layout Plan #2
- Natural Feel	- Community Hub
- Loop Trail	- (2) Pavilions
- Wildflower Preservation	- Basketball Court
- Community Art	- Exercise Area
- No Parking Lot	- Perimeter Fence
- Small Play Field	- Traditional Playground
- Nature Play	- Dog Park
- Bee Hives	

Survey responses regarding the proposed dog park were also notable. The responses were split evenly between those who were not interested in a dog park vs. those who were.

When asked how important designated parking is for Grand Meadow Park, roughly 35% said it would be important or very important, while the rest of the respondents had a neutral preference or did not find it important.

Lighting was very desirable among respondents, as was a loop trail, pavilion, play equipment, picnic areas, and wildflower meadows.



Concept Presentation

Once the survey results were explained, the proposed concept plan was presented.

The proposed concept plan is a combination of the most preferable elements from each of the two preliminary layout plans. It combines the desirable loop trail and larger wildflower meadows from Preliminary Layout Plan #1 with the various opportunities for recreation shown in Preliminary Layout Plan #2.

Final Layout Plan

- A. pavilion (x2)
- B. community garden
- C. food forest
- D. wildflower meadow
- E. ½ mile loop trail
- F. natural play field
- G. play area
- H. community art
- I. exercise equipment
- J. picnic area
- K. existing street parking
- L. bee hives
- M. sports court
- N. dog park



To explain each element of the design more clearly, the plan was also broken into smaller exhibits for each element. The vignettes included the loop trail, play, community garden & food forest, open space, shade, and the dog park.

It was also noted that a pickleball court would not be feasible since the park cannot accommodate the required 500-foot buffer between the courts and adjacent homes. The dog park would be feasible as long as it is located within the 300' buffer as outlined on the dog park exhibit. *See below for examples of the exhibits presented:*



Grand Meadow Park Concept Plan

Play

53% preferred traditional play equipment, 47% preferred nature play
57% preferred an informal play field



Loop Trail

94% of respondents would like to see a loop trail in the park



Open Space

79% of respondents would like to see wildflowers preserved at the park
Many written responses emphasized the desire to keep the natural feel of Grand Meadow and to preserve the existing wildflower meadows



Shade

86% of respondents would like to see a pavilion in the park
72% chose shade as a top priority for the park (Survey #2)



The presentation concluded with an introduction to the survey and extra time for questions and answers.

The full presentation for Meeting #3 is recorded [here](#).



Survey #3 - Summary Report

September 26 - October 16, 2023

Survey Introduction

Instructions on how to access the survey were provided in-person at Community Meeting #3. The survey was introduced at Community Meeting #3 and open to the public on the COA webpage (<https://www.austintexas.gov/GrandMeadowPark>) from September 26 - October 16.

Community Engagement

In order to gather as much feedback as possible from community members, APF, PARD, and Friends of Grand Meadow took the following steps:

- **Email** : For Community Survey #3, APF sent an email with information on how to take Survey #3 to those who had signed up for email communication on the COA Grand Meadow webpage or opted in to receive emails in Community Survey #1 or #2. Email reminders were also sent to local HOA's, School PTA's, and Neighborhood Associations.
- **Nextdoor Post**: PARD provided a post on the neighborhood application "Nextdoor" in an effort to notify residents of the survey.

Survey Results

A total of 107 responses were received.

The first goal of the survey was to gain a better understanding of the community demographics and to understand which community members were taking the survey. The demographics were very similar to the past two surveys.

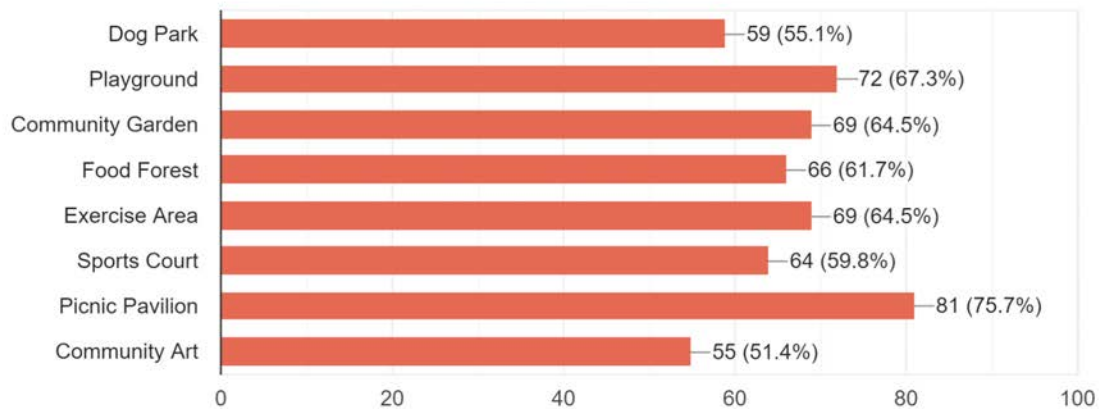
Respondents were then asked: "Choose your top five priorities for Grand Meadow Park from the options below (Note: with overwhelming community support in the previous two surveys, the natural loop trail and picnic areas have already been identified as top priority features)". See key takeaways and responses below:

Key Takeaways:

- The most popular priority for Grand Meadow was a picnic pavilion with 75.7%. Shade has been cited as a top priority throughout all three surveys. A picnic pavilion will be provided in the final Concept Plan.
- The least popular priority for Grand Meadow Park is community art with 51.4%. Community art will still be included in the final Concept Plan, but will be lower on the priority list as funding becomes available.



107 responses



In order to determine the most popular type of “sports court”, respondents were also asked “A location for a sports court has been located on the concept plan. What type of sports court do you think Grand Meadow Park would most benefit from (Please note: pickleball courts are not an option for this park given the close proximity to nearby homes)?” See below for responses and key takeaways:

107 responses



Key Takeaways:

- The most popular response was a multi-use court with roughly 58% support from survey respondents.
- The Concept Plan will include a proposed court with striping for various sports.

Since the responses regarding a proposed dog park were so mixed during Survey #2, Survey #3 included the following question “Do you think Grand Meadow Park would benefit from a fenced-in dog park?” in order to further gauge the community’s interest in this feature. The responses were as follows:



107 responses



Key Takeaways:

- With over 65% of respondents in support, 15% indifferent, and 15% opposed to the proposed dog park, there will be a fenced-in dog park in the final Concept Plan.

These survey results provided crucial insight into the community's top implementation priorities and helped clarify a few specific elements of the proposed design. This last round of feedback was crucial to the final concept plan.

The final question was an open-ended request for respondents to include any additional hopes and/or concerns for the park. Safety and maintenance were among the top concerns. To read the full report, see below.

The full survey results for Survey #3 are recorded [here](#).