

Zilker Park Vision Plan Community Meeting #3

Question Report		10/20/2021 15:27	
Report Generated:			
Topic	Webinar ID 878 5628 8664	Actual Duration (minutes): 157	
Number of Questions: 107			
Question Details			
	Question	Asker Name	Answer(s)
1	<p>Did I see a possible gateway near the south entrance of Barton Springs parking lot?</p> <p>There is already very inadequate space for both parking and play in that space.</p>	Mark Weiler	Hopefully this slide is helping answer the location question. These are all ideas that are being presented for community feedback. Thanks for sharing.
2	Is current transportation model (first example before gateway examples) considered node? or dispersed?	Deana Dossey	live answered
3	clarify my question to be program distribution of current park situation?	Deana Dossey	The current program is a node scenario with most activity and circulation in the eastern and southern part of the park. Thanks for your question.
4	How is this slide helping the location question?	Robin Rather	That was responding to Mark's question when the location slide was up. Sorry if the answer didn't translate beyond that moment.
5	With regards to repurposing existing assets, how did you determine whether or not a building is under-utilized?	Flora McArthur	We researched and worked with our PARD contracts division to understand how frequently our facilities are being used.
6	Reduce parking and set up a workable transit system to the Park and then once there	Roy Waley	Thank you for sharing your comment, Roy. Parking consolidation and access is a major consideration. Jonathan will touch on this in these next slides.
7	What about a visitor site near the moontower that has great visibility for the whole park, but is not too close to crowded areas.	Anonymous Attendee	That location could be a possibility, but many locations are being considered, even existing facilities. Thanks for your question.
8	Have you thought about moving Kite Festival and ACL to either one of the much larger parks?	Judith Sims	We've met with the promoters of both events and will continue to explore possibilities. Thanks.

9	Set up Park and Rides that are family friendly	Roy Waley	live answered
10	Has anyone considered the Dillo bus concept again?	Laura Cottam Sajbel	Yes, we discussed this with CapMetro but will require further conversations since they would be the entity to revive that. Thanks for attending the meeting Board Member.
11	Return Polo Fields to grass and prohibit parking. Once people learn there is limited parking but easy access by transit habits will change	Roy Waley	Thankd for your comment Roy.
12	as part of the park circulator, that is	Laura Cottam Sajbel	
13	For a gateway design, City might ask to check out the new camp building by Arthur Andersen going up at Shields Ayers Ranch; low impact; open to nature. Check their website; it's private property.	Judith Sims	Thank you for sharing this, Judith.
14	What efforts have you made to contract with adjacent office parking garages to have people park there on weekends and walk in? Many poeple arrive with kayaks, igloos, grills, and canoes. They can't bike in with those things or ride the bus.	Elizabeth McGreevy	live answered
15	The parking map does not include the parking on the south side of the pool. Isn't that parking part of an overall parking plan?	Sarah Faust	live answered
16	I represent TTF and hope Dougherty will share their parking garage (on weekends and after hours) for those who must drive. Ohterwise, I'd like to see a trailhead access close to the MoPac/Austin High pedestrian bridge.	Evan Taniguchi	live answered
17	Can we see the cost benefit analysis of closing BS Road? Thanks	Robin Rather	live answered

18	<p>Consider entryways as zones that include space before and after the threshold, what is the user experience as the enter and leave the park? This then suggest multiple entry points with visitor interaction/interpretive opportunities. Interpretive including information sharing, way finding, rules and regs, etc.</p> <p>While a central visitor center is desirable consider not limiting those services only occurring at central facility. Also, consider the type of programming both formal and informal. One user group is school field trips that require certain services and educational opportunities that might be best separated from the general public so besides a visitor center also think about a Barton Springs Education center - overlapping operations but enough of a difference to physically separate.</p>	Clark Hancock	Thank you for the comments, Clark.
19	The stratford drive option map was NOT clear.	Anonymous Attendee	This presentation is giving an overview of possible planning alternatives to explore further; the interactive map that will be released will give more a bit more detail and context of what is shown here.
20	What is a range of costs for a new separated-grade ped & bike crossing of Barton Springs Road? E.g. cost range for a pedestrian underpass, cost range for land bridge (both of which had example images shown).	Tom Wald	live answered
21	How about bike corrals for storing bikes at park?	Anonymous Attendee	Thank you for sharing the idea.

22	What kind of analysis may have been done on what ACL does that works so well re car free options? Is that replicable the rest of the year?	Robin Rather	live answered
23	What about Azie Morton?????	Anonymous Attendee	live answered
24	And how long will ACL restrict our opportunities for the ZP Master Plan	Evan Taniguchi	live answered
25	There is a legal judgement from a suit by Rollingwood that affects possible changes to Stratford. This goes back to when the Nature Center was first planning on moving to its current site	Clark Hancock	Thank you, Clark. We are assessing where we need to explore all of our options. We will continue conversations with Rollingwood as well.
26	Return to a more natural environment and less of a theme park. As JO just said an refuge.	Roy Waley	Thanks for the comment Roy.
27	So happy to see you integrating climate mitigation into this now!! Thank you. Is there any detailed analysis your team has that it can share?	Robin Rather	live answered
28	Consider diversity of eco zones and don't just focus on trees. Especially meadows	Clark Hancock	The presentation showed eco zones so this will be furthered explored. Thanks.
29	The mowing I observe in Zilker Park throughout the years appears very destructive. Huge machinery kicks up lots of dust. The grass is cut too low when the weather is dry and the grass is turning brown. I have called the maintenance people about this and my comments have fallen on deaf ears.	Anonymous Attendee	live answered
30	Keep handicap and 4+ HOV parking for families	Roy Waley	Thank you for this comment, Roy. Ensuring access for all is a major priority.
31	what kinds of material is in the landfill? could there be some biohazards?	Joanne Day	live answered

32	With regard to ecology, sustainability, and land management, how was the impact of Austin City Limits taken into account in the planning/recommendation process?	Susan Whittle	live answered
33	If we can extract the Butler landfill, what about a buried parking area there with a green roof (and trees) so that parking at Zilker can be consolidated and parking needs met while providing an ecological surface?	Anonymous Attendee	live answered
34	Intresting becaouse the pit was a sand, gravel and clay qury before in was used as a landfill. Quarry walls change the perspective	Clark Hancock	live answered
35	Are these what you are calling "scenarios?" Or are there fully fleshed out scenarios to consider and evaluate elsewhere on the web or something?	Robin Rather	live answered
36	How do we sign up for small group discussions?	Mark Weiler	ZilkerVision@austintexas.gov to let us know you are interested and what your interests might be.
37	I agree: The stratford drive option map was NOT clear.	Anonymous Attendee	live answered
38	What are funding options for this plan: bonds, General Fund, PPP, commmunity fundraising...???	Elizabeth Gray	live answered
39	Is there any serious consideration being given to reloacting ACL and Trail of Lights so we can enjoy the park all year long as opposed to losing it for up to 2 months each year.	bill seale	live answered

40	Have you given thought to improving Shared Use Pathways for scooters pedestrians along Barton Springs Road, over the bridge and into the park? Hundreds use scooters from downtown to access the park for events, but pavement from Lamar to the park is in terrible shape.	Ed Scruggs	live answered
41	Is there a value decision re: whether concessions will be allowed more entry (e.g. the old carousel that was rejected several years ago), How will/won't they fit into the plan?	Anonymous Attendee	live answered
42	A physical information center is only one option, correct? Repurposing current buildings for an information center is not a firm decision, correct?	Anaka Rivera	That is correct, Anaka. There are several typologies for gateways & thresholds as well as an information center/visitor hub that are being considered.
43	Adding to safe storage for bikes, are there plans for better trails for bikes into and through the park?	Anonymous Attendee	live answered
44	The thresholds are a terrible idea. They will involve great expense and disruption to build. They are unnecessary man-made structures that interfere with the natural environment. The presence of gates imposes the presence of government.	Anonymous Attendee	Thank you for the comment.
45	The options for connecting the Butler Trail and Violet Crown Trail are exciting. I'm curious about the potential impact on the disc golf course from some of the options presented. What if any changes to the configuration of the golf course might be contemplated for inclusion in the master plan?	Fred Richardson	live answered

46	can we shrink BS road to one lane each way?	William Bunch	We will continue to explore how BS Rd can be safer for peds and cyclists & how to lower vehicle speeds. We've already met with Austin Transportation about this. Thanks.
47	would need more hubs not great to go downtown to catch shuttles.	Joanne Day	Thank you for this comment, Joanne. Connections to the park through CapMetro routes is also a consideration.
48	What is the timeline for the project and what is the estimated completion date?	Anonymous Attendee	We anticipate that the plan starts the approval process next summer. Thanks.
49	Has the Design Team reviewed the Rewilding Zilker plan?	Sarah Faust	live answered
50	Please discuss either Trail Of Lights removal or improvements to management of the space that allows for use of the park during the time the exhibitbits are present. Too much of the park becomes inaccessible to park users.	Michele Blair	live answered
51	Have you considered moving ACL to COTA?	Karen Kreps	live answered
52	Given how rapidly Austin is expanding and the speed that climate change is accelerating , why are the ecological issues regarding zilker park not more of an immediate issue other than a "100 year plan"?	Jenna Amadi	live answered
53	How csn we dicuss a "Vision" plan that doesn't include the prospect of alcohol sales at Zilker? A blurry double vision plan?	Roy Waley	Roy, thanks for the question. The wine and beer question at Zilker Cafe is before Boards and Commissions, and opportunities for community members to engage there is available. In addition, the vision is typically more high level than that. However, we are looking for opportunities where that might be explored in more detail as concessions are considered in the future. We haven't forgotten about you yet, and we know it is a big question!

54	Might consider developing some conceptual scenarios on how different folks park experience. someone who visits the park every day or so as the informal recreation/recharge; the family who uses the park for an extended family gathering; etc. It is one thing for someone who lives in fairly close proximity and those who would be coming from further out. Also, the types of activities: how much time does different activities take and what does that mean to the logistics of the various visitor types	Clark Hancock	live answered
55	Please don't limit measure to canopy cover!	Clark Hancock	Thank you for your comment Clark. If you have specific questions please feel free to put them here in the Q&A. Other comments may be directed to the chat.
56	What options are being considered to improve safe pedestrian access to the Botanical Gardens from the park? Currently, the pavement conditions and traffic volume on Barton Springs Road make it unsafe to walk or scooter from the big lawn or the springs.	Ed Scruggs	live answered
57	Have any of you seen the SOS rewilding plan?	Roy Waley	live answered
58	I'm glad to hear others are trying to get maintenance to back off on the mowing. Thank you.	Anonymous Attendee	Thanks for your comment.
59	Reforestation, decreased mowing, and improved aquatic ecosystems are some of the most important ways to address climate change in the park (excluding transportation to and from).	Craig Nazor	live answered

60	What are likely funding options for the plan?	Anonymous Attendee	We are exploring several funding options, such as earned income, contributed income, or value capture. Perhaps a conservancy is possible, but needs to be explored. This topic will be discussed further in our next meetings. Thanks.
61	Would like to see people surveyed who actually use the park in the places you are proposing change, not just pop ups at Barton Springs Pool Entrance. i.e. Butler pop-ups, people along the banks, people at Barkin Springs, people who are using the great lawn, people who use the playscapes, picnic tables at the far end of the park. There are many types of people who use the park, not just swimmers.	Anonymous Attendee	Thanks for the question. We are trying to reach visitors to the park both at the park and throughout the City. Since we can't be everywhere in the park, we're trying to get to places all over the city!
62	I'd love to take public transit from other parts of town but it takes a full two hours on bus to get to Zilker from Circle C, Dove Springs, and other parts of town. As transit, transportation and access is discussed, how do we make sure that the plan is equitable and that we don't greenwash exclusionary planning from making Zilker harder to access?	Rich DePalma	live answered
63	Well said, Jonathan	Clark Hancock	
64	ACL mostly damages and repairs, which is not good for climate mitigation.	Craig Nazor	Fair comment Craig. Thanks.
65	Have you thought about repurposing the building on the back side of Barton Springs, and combining it with the current exhibit?	Anonymous Attendee	live answered
66	I would encourage a cap for the landfill so we can utilize that area to it's best potential.	Evan Taniguchi	The landfill already has a cap and the city of Austin has to maintain it per state requirements. Thanks.

67	What other park in the U.S. can be compared to Zilker in terms of size, variety of activities, natural swimming pool, and a huge music festival	Megan Meisenbach	live answered
68	Comment. Many urban parks have structured parking, such as Grant Park in Chicago, Piedmont Park in Atlanta, and Central Park in NY.	Steve Prather	Thanks for this consideration, Steve.
69	How is the SOS rewilding plan being considered within this vision?	Michele Blair	We see it as important input from community members who are near the park. We are also continuing the process of gathering input from across the city and continuing the process. We are grateful for this additional insight and input.
70	How does the SOS "Rewilding" vision factor into the final plan?	Ingrid Karklins	Yes, we are reviewing it. We see it as important input from community members who are near the park. We are also continuing the process of gathering input from across the city and continuing the process. We appreciate this additional insight and input.
71	Whether located at Butler or anywhere, have you looked into private operation of "park parking" that could help finance structured parking options, even leading to reduced impervious cover in the rest of the park.	Anonymous Attendee	live answered
72	Could the DAC underground parking garage be enlarged?	Judith Sims	We are looking at the possibility of allowing park visitors to park there on weekends or other non peak times. Thanks.
73	Parking is a very seasonal thing. Why are we talking about a sea of pavement that's only truly used occasionally	Roy Waley	Daily access to the park is the priority in addressing issues of related to mobility and transportation. Consolidating inefficient parking lots and improving multi-modal connections are major considerations.
74	Great question about moving ACL and Trail of Blight	Anonymous Attendee	
75	No conversation this time about safe walking access from Barton Springs Road, Stratford Dr and the Hike & Bike Trail into Zilker Botanical Garden, the Nature Center and the north side of the park	Judith Craft	live answered

76	The landfill does not have a clay or geomembrane cap per Chris Herrington.	Elizabeth McGreevy	
77	I fully support the rewilding efforts in conjunction with increased options for family and community activities that promote exercise and healthy options. To that end, I would like to promote outdoor pickleball courts. 8 courts would take the space of 2 tennis courts and would benefit all ages considering the huge popularity and growth of the sport accross generations and demographic groups. Is this being discussed?	Michele Blair	live answered
78	that wasn't clear as per Ogrens presentation.	Evan Taniguchi	
79	Have you considered having lockers or other storage for large items such as strollers, coolers, etc. for folks who want to spend a day in the park and enjoy more than one activity?	Karen Blizzard	live answered
80	Concessions (and alcohol)--it is great to NOT to have to deal with these for the most part. Makes Zilker more of a natural place, we don't have to be entertained (or inebriated)	Anonymou s Attendee	live answered
81	with Passage of Austin climate Equity plan, why isn't sustainability always much higher a priority?	Bobby Rigney	live answered
82	mentioning that ACL takes the park for 26 days a year is really an under estimate. the south side parking closest to azie morton was closed on september 15th and the grand lawn is presently closed off that is at 35 days so far.	w tucker	live answered

83	Have you considered ACL at Auditorium Shores?	Anonymous Attendee	The promoters of ACL have stated they would like to stay in Zilker and have not shown any interest in relocating. This will continue to be explored though. Thanks.
84	ACL is not very equitable in Zilker Park.	Craig Nazor	Thanks for your comment Craig.
85	will acl's use of the park restrict the rewilding of the great lawn ?	w tucker	live answered
86	More than one of us has asked about the SOS rewilding plan but there has been no response	Roy Waley	This question was answered by Jonathan O. Sorry if you missed it Roy. We are reviewing it. We see it as important input from community members who are near the park. We are also continuing the process of gathering input from across the city and continuing the process. We appreciate this additional insight and input.
87	Comparatively smaller comment but is anyone talking about improving the single volleyball court on the south side? Perhaps due to budget constraints, the court was built in a sub-optimal way with dirt vs sand as compared to the deep, (sport appropriate) sand at the north court complex. At it's current state, it is derelict and barely used. If sand were added, deep and around the margins, it would be a great improvement and the court would be used as intended! Otherwise, it is wasted space use.	Michele Blair	live answered
88	Of course the promoters of ACL want to stay in the park. But why do they have the right to take it over? We all love it, but activities that attract huge crowds abuse it.	Anonymous Attendee	live answered
89	I represent TTF and also the ZBG Conservancy (Taniguchi Garden) so let's stay in touch. Great presentation....but gotta sign off!	Evan Taniguchi	Thanks.

90	I encourage you to mitigate the landfill as much as possible, seeing that it is in a floodplain with an ever-increasing chance of flooding due to climate change.	Craig Nazor	Good point and comment Craig. Thanks
91	Ricardo but can you create Barton Springs in these spaces or put a train?	Anonymous Attendee	live answered
92	Roy Guerrero park is a fantastic park on the Colorado River that needs a Vision Plan	Roy Waley	It has one that was approved in 2003.
93	Greg and team- the City's own city-wide surveys indicate interest in expanding the natural areas in ALL of Austin's parks and also specifically in Zilker Park is above 80%. The ZNA team attended ALL of the pop ups across the city and believes there is a wide interest, not just from adjacent neighborhoods. We are also working to have Austin Neighborhoods Association help make sure ALL neighborhoods have a chance to give input to the rewilding concepts and we are working on that diligently. Happy to share feedback as we get it.	Robin Rather	Thank you, Robin. There is definitely significant interest, which is why we continue to consider this and think through the possibilities and continue to bring it to community members across the city as well.
94	Yes, I thought that the Zilker Rewilding Plan was going to be the focus of tonight's meeting. Am disappointed that it was not.	Karen Kreps	We are reviewing it. We see it as important input from community members who are near the park. We are also continuing the process of gathering input from across the city and continuing the process. This planning process is on a different schedule since we're discussing many issues whereas the Zilker Rewilding Plan focused on one important issue. Thanks.
95	Sure and what's happening now? We need transit to that Park also. Roy G should be as revered as an asset to the City. It's beautiful	Roy Waley	Roy G is a great asset and CapMetro would need to be part of the solution.

96	How does a pickle ball court work with a re-wilded park? Pickle-tree ball?	Anonymous Attendee	Programming preferences for types of uses, i.e., places for active & passive recreation are considerations for the community to weigh in on.
97	Beverly Sheffield Center is the building behind Barton Springs is an option which could be shared as a visitor center with Zilker Park.	Anonymous Attendee	thank you for the clarification.
98	'@Karen et al: I also thought tonight was primarily supposed to be about rewilding. VERY interested in this possibility.	Anonymous Attendee	Thank you for your comment.
99	I'm enjoying watching Melissa sign. She's very expressive.	Elizabeth McGreevy	Me, too! So glad she is a part of it tonight!
100	Not hearing much love for Roy G	Roy Waley	It's loved. Thaks Roy.
101	Many people using the Lady Bird Lake hike and bike trail end up parking on the old landfill near the Mopac Pedestrian Bridge. If the landfill is removed as a parking option, will there be other parking accomodations for those folks from around the city seeking to access the trail? Parking at Austin High School is not large enough.	Ed Scruggs	live answered
102	How does a citizen vote to put ACL in another space, in a way that help PARD to keep score?	Anonymous Attendee	live answered
103	If the landfill were completely removed, underground parking couldd be constructed in its place. But that would be expensive, and possibly create a flooding risk.	Craig Nazor	live answered
104	Never heard Ricardo mention it. We need to fix the bridge over Country Club Gulch	Roy Waley	live answered
105	Removing parking spaces is not inclusive to everyone. Not all of us can take a bike or a bus to the park.	Anonymous Attendee	Agreed.

106	Great job and thank you for your efforts!	Michele Blair	
107	thank you!	Deana Dossey	