

Austin Town Lake Park MASTER PLAN

July 1999

EDAW

in association with:

Jose Martinez Associates • Winterowd Associates • TBG Partners

VISION FOR TOWN LAKE PARK

CREATE A CULTURAL PARK THAT IS THE JEWEL OF THE AUSTIN PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM, THE CENTER OF TOWN LAKE, A CITY "WIDE" FOCUS FOR CULTURAL EVENTS, AND A MAJOR URBAN OPEN SPACE THAT IS CLOSE TO AND CONNECTED WITH THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS AND DOWNTOWN.

A park where culture can flourish

- Renovate Long Auditorium to create a center for performing arts in Austin.
- Maintain and enhance Auditorium Shores as a location for festivals, concerts and special events.
- Build a Community Events Center that hosts a variety of Austin-based events and activities.
- Enhance the Dougherty Arts Center program and facilities, and provide outdoor areas near the Center for educational activities and art displays.
- Develop and organize an entity to coordinate schedules, activities, programs, security and maintenance at Town Lake Park to ensure a well-functioning urban park.
- Include educational and interpretive components in the park to serve school children and residents. The components could include pavement art, interpretive markers and plaques, structures, exhibits, and programs.
- Develop a program to encourage involvement by local and regional artists/artisans in the design of public art, site furnishings and exhibits in the park.
- Develop the park to include public art opportunities such as sculpture, earthworks, fountains, memorials, and interactive play areas.
- Provide additional services (such as restrooms and cafes) in the cultural buildings and in the park to meet the needs of the event attendees.

A park where all feel welcome

- Provide a variety of facilities for picnics, seating, story telling, informal gatherings, children's play, informal recreation, and other park activities.
- Provide a series of kiosks containing park concessions and park services throughout the park to help activate key areas, create an attractive environment and to meet the needs of the park users.
- Create a series of gateways to the park that reinforce the character of the park and invite the residents of adjacent neighborhoods and the City of Austin to enjoy Town Lake Park.
- Reinforce 1st Street and Barton Springs Drive as the front door to the park by enhancing the streetscape treatment along these corridors.
- Integrate the proposed pathways with the existing Town Lake trail network and with the surrounding neighborhood path system.
- Provide pedestrian crosswalks into the park and encourage pedestrian movement throughout the park.
- Improve access to the water's edge with paths, enhanced key view corridors, and seating areas near the water's edge.
- Provide an interactive water feature in the park to attract park users of all ages and to provide a cool place during the warm months.
- Provide the resources to ensure the park is properly maintained and operated throughout the year.
- Prepare a detailed maintenance manual as part of the design process that addresses irrigation, feeding, pruning, trash collection, and annual/periodic maintenance requirements.

An important place for Austin

- Enhance and accentuate views of the downtown skyline and the Capitol Dome.
- Develop Town Lake Park as a major component of the Town Lake Park System.
- Eliminate Riverside Drive between 1st Street and the Railroad ROW to create a significant and contiguous open space in the heart of the city.
- Integrate the park with the surrounding neighborhoods and downtown by providing safe pedestrian and bicycle connections and gateways.
- Encourage mixed-use urban development adjacent to the park to reinforce the street edge, provide support to park users, and to create an active and attractive environment in and around the park.
- Create a distinct park design treatment along 1st Street and Barton Springs Road that enhance those corridors and encourages their development as key commercial streets.
- Create a distinct character and recognizable image that is of and unique to Austin, and that reinforces this park as a special place in Austin.
- Preserve the integrity and character of existing residential areas adjacent to the park.
- Enhance pedestrian connections to downtown to encourage lunch time and after work use of the park.
- Create a cultural trail in the park that celebrates and commemorates the unique history of Austin, its people, places, and events.

An environmentally sensitive park

- Preserve as many mature trees as possible on the site.
- Use native plants and xeriscape that respond to and survive in the Austin environment, and require less water and maintenance.
- Provide greater areas of landscape planting to increase the amount of pervious surface and reduce runoff.
- Rediscover and restore Bouldin Creek as an urban waterway and use it to demonstrate ways to improve water quality, accommodate and reduce runoff, and showcase special riparian plants.
- Provide interpretive features in the park that tell the story of the natural environment of the site and/or region.
- Use non-native plants judiciously for shade, color and visual interest.
- Incorporate plant materials that introduce color, texture and seasonal change.
- Provide receptacles throughout the park for trash and recycling collection.
- Use recycled materials throughout construction of the park and in the design elements.

A secure and accessible park

- Ensure easy access into the park and cultural facilities with marked/signalized crosswalks, sidewalks, pathways, streets, and transit (Dillo, Capital Metro stops).
- Provide facilities that meet ADA requirements.
- Separate pedestrians, bicycles and vehicular ways where possible.
- Provide lighting at appropriate levels to create a safe and attractive environment throughout the park.
- Distribute small surface parking areas through the park and near park entrances.
- Provide 1,200 structured parking spaces on site for the cultural facilities and park.
- Enhance off-site parking areas with lighting, signage, and plantings to improve their image and encourage use.
- Develop a "park line" shuttle as part of the Dillo system to link the park and cultural facilities with off-site parking areas.



City of Austin

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Legend

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