

Summary of First Public Meeting Sunday, February 25, 2018

The Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt master plan initiative aims to develop a park plan for the 206-acre greenbelt by summer 2018. In order to reach this goal, a total of three public meetings will be held in East Austin to determine area residents' priorities for the greenbelt.

The first public meeting was held the afternoon of February 25, 2018 at Givens Recreation Center and had forty attendees. The format of the meeting included a brief presentation and seven public input stations. The stations were staffed by community planners from National Park Service RTCA (Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program), Pecan Springs-Springdale Neighborhood Association (PSSNA) volunteers, Families in Nature staff, and 183 South Project employees. The venue was provided by City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department and refreshments were donated by PSSNA.

Presentation (1:00-1:15 pm):

NPS staff provided a brief overview of the park, highlighting its current conditions, potential, and the planning process. The slides for this presentation are included at the end of this document.

Stations(1:15-4:00pm):

Station one presented general information about the greenbelt and the planning process. At this station, participants were also asked about their general knowledge and use of the greenbelt. The results of these questions are included in page two.

In **station two**, participants saw a brief summary of the greenbelt's appealing points and current issues, then added their own thoughts about current problems and selling points of the greenbelt. Comments are summarized in page four of this document.

Station three included large-format maps of the greenbelt and allowed attendees to discuss and label specific features, issues, and opportunities found in the greenbelt. A digitized version of their comments can be found on page five.

Station four presented information about various park amenities, allowing participants to comment on each and identify the ones they most desired to see at Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt. These votes and comments are included in page six.

Station five, prepared by Families in Nature, allowed adults and children to get to know the nature and wildlife of the region and greenbelt. Participants were able to touch, feel, and learn about plant and animal species present in this area.

Station six, also prepared and staffed by Families in Nature, allowed children to discuss and draw the greenbelt improvements they would like. Common themes included play areas, creek access, and trails.

Station seven, run by 183 South Project staff, provided detailed information about the widening and future of US-183. Project staff answered questions, presented roadway plans, distributed 183-S freebies, and took the email addresses of participants desiring project updates. Further information about the 183 South Project is available at www.183south.com.

Station One: Questions Regarding Use of Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt

Have you been to the Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt?

Yes	No
13	8

If you have visited, how frequently do you engage in the following activities at Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt?

	Daily or almost daily	Several times per week	Several times per month	Once a month	Less than once a month	Never
Walking or hiking	1	1		4	10	
running	1	1		1	2	1
bicycling		2		1	4	
Walking pets	2			4	4	

Other: Observing wildlife, identifying trees and plants (2)

If you have not visited the greenbelt, which reasons (up to three) best describe why you have not done so?

Didn't know about the greenbelt	2
Unsure about the recreation options available at the greenbelt	1
It is difficult to access the greenbelt	5
Lack of parking	4
Concern for personal safety at the park	5
Lack of interest in parks	0

General Suggestions

- Maintain greenbelt as natural as possible (3)
- Conduct survey of land and water
- Preserve wildlife
- No dogs, as they could interfere with wildlife
- Design a model park for the east side
- Preserve nature
- Mitigate floods downstream
- Oasis from city noise
- Rules/signs prohibiting collection of rocks/artifacts
- No creek access (this can lead to pollution)
- Keep pollution-free, no impact fees "in lieu of remediation"
- Promote park, work with area organizations and Cap Metro (Route 3)
- Involve TMBRA (Texas Mountain Bike Riders Association), their members do trail work for points
- Tiny house village for homeless population
- Portable restroom, dry area, and trash cans for homeless encampments
- Reduce impervious cover
- No sports fields, music venues, or parking structures
- More outreach to people of color and area residents

Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt

Master Plan Initiative | *Iniciativa de Planificación*

Current Conditions | *Condiciones Actuales*

Appealing Points | *Atractivos*

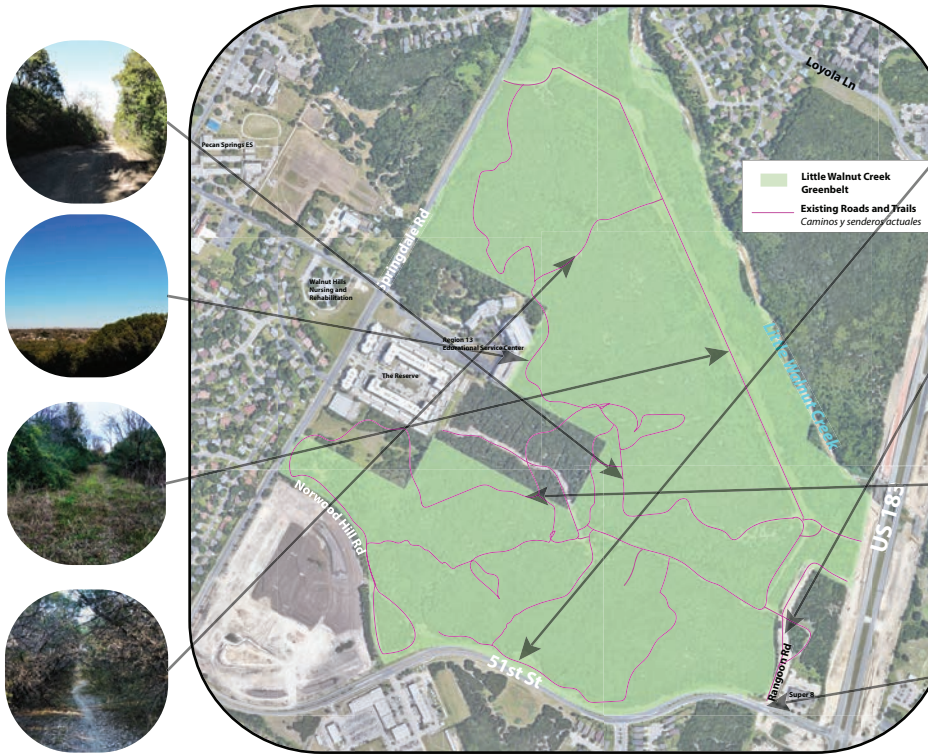
Over four miles of roads and user-generated trails
Más de cuatro millas de caminos y senderos informales

Outstanding views
Vistas espectaculares

Nature and wildlife
Naturaleza y vida salvaje

Proximity to many East Austin neighborhoods
Cercanía a varias vecindades del este de Austin

Potential creek access
Acceso potencial al riachuelo



Current Issues | *Problemas Actuales*

Some of the trails are in poor conditions
Algunos senderos se en malas condiciones

Illegal dumping
Arrojamiento ilegal de basura

Homeless encampment
Campamento de indigentes

Clay soils make trails difficult to walk through when wet
Es difícil caminar por los senderos cuando están mojados debido al lodo

No parking
Falta de estacionamiento

Limited access points and lack of crosswalks
Pocos puntos de acceso y falta de cruces peatonales

Other Appealing Points | *Atractivos Adicionales*

What do you like about the greenbelt? | *¿A usted qué le gusta del parque?*

- Natural setting - keep it wild and natural
- Convenient location
- Covers large area, could offer many options for outdoor recreation
- Encampment gives homeless a safe space
- Many trails (8 miles)
- Varied wildlife
- Dense wilderness

Other Issues | *Otros Problemas*

What are other issues you've noticed? | *¿Cuáles problemas adicionales se presentant en el parque?*

- Poorly designed trails
- Poor drainage exacerbates rutting
- Lack of signage
- Feels unsafe
- No bathrooms or water fountains
- No official access to trails from ESC 13 or The Reserve
- Mowing debris left on trails
- No lighting
- No creek access

Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt

Master Plan Initiative | *Iniciativa de Planificación*



Public Meeting Comments

- Current Conditions
- Suggestions

- Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt
- Existing Roads and Trails
Caminos y senderos actuales

Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt

Master Plan Initiative | *Iniciativa de Planificación*

Park amenities are key components that can make the difference between a forgotten park and one which becomes a community destination.

What park amenities would you like to see in the Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt?

Las instalaciones de los parques son partes importantes que pueden definir la diferencia entre un parque olvidado y uno que se vuelve atracción popular.

¿Qué instalaciones le gustaría ver en el parque Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt?

Park Amenities | *Instalaciones del Parque*

Paved Trails
Senderos Pavimentados



6 VOTES

Comments:
Pave only one or a few primary trails

Natural Surface Trails
Senderos naturales



25 VOTES

Comments:
Design to prevent rutting. Include mountain bike trails.

Trail Markers
Marcasenderos




16 VOTES

Exercise Equipment
Aparatos de ejercicio



5 VOTES

Other Ideas
Otras ideas



Bike racks (10 votes)
Bathroom (6 votes)
Water stations (3 votes)
Trash cans (2 votes)
Lighting (2 votes)
Amphitheater
Emergency phones
Community event center
Picnic areas

Seating
Bancas




6 VOTES

Outdoor Education Area
Área de Educación al Aire Libre



10 VOTES

Creek Access
Acceso al arroyo



13 VOTES

Comments:
Ensure water quality will be protected before opening park or creating trails.

Play Areas
Áreas de juegos



10 VOTES

Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt

EAST AUSTIN'S NEXT GREAT PARK

Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt

Overview

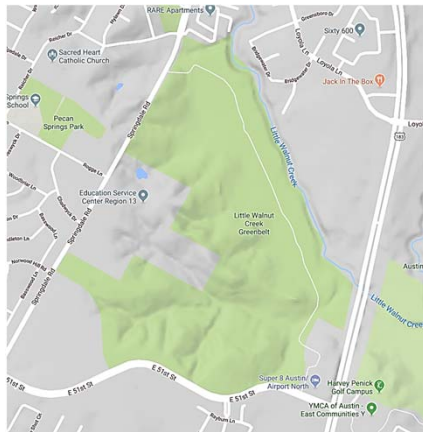
Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt is a 206-acre city-owned tract off of 51st Street and US-183 in East Austin.

Area is largely wooded and has a number of steep ravines and hillsides.

A utility service road crosses the property from north to south.

The park has over 4 miles of informal trails.

No major improvements have been made to the Greenbelt.



Current State and Appeal

Over four miles of roads and user-generated trails

Outstanding views

Nature and wildlife

Great location

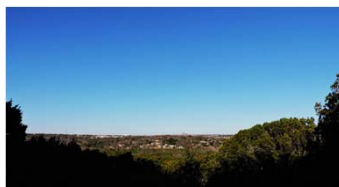
Potential creek access



steep hillsides



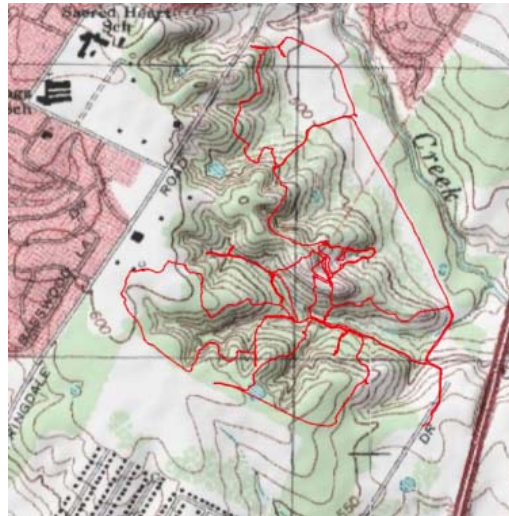
natural and undeveloped



panoramic views



user-generated trails



existing trail network

Current Issues

- Road and trails in poor state
- Illegal dumping
- Homeless encampment
- Clay soil
- Limited access points
- No parking





clay soils in southern entrance



dumping



no crosswalk on 51st/Rangoon



deep ruts on trails

Mission

Increase the awareness of the Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt, engage the Greenbelt's potential users, and develop a master plan that details which improvements will increase access and use of the Greenbelt.



Process

February

- Roll Out Survey
- First Public Meeting: Feb 25

March

- Second Public Meeting: Late March

April-May

- Asakura Robinson Develops Park Plan

June-July

- Third Public Meeting and Final Adjustments to Plan
- Formal Approval Process

First Public Meeting

1. Information
2. Current State
3. Map and Comments
4. Possible Improvements
5. Nature and Wildlife
6. Kids' Vision for the Greenbelt
7. 183 South Project



Collaborators

Organizations participating in the effort include: Pecan Springs Springdale Neighborhood Association, National Park Service, Asakura Robinson, City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, City Council District 1, Austin Parks Foundation, Bike Austin, Austin Ridge Riders, Keep Austin Beautiful, and East Communities YMCA.

The NPS Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance program (RTCA) will be leading the public engagement process.

Asakura Robinson will develop the park plan using public feedback collected through the engagement process.