

Austin Parks Foundation Security Audit Office Hour Notes
Meeting: May 21, 2024

1. Helpful Links

- a. List of facilities by type, including the address and square footage of buildings, can be [found here](#).
- b. List of parkland with acreage can be [found here](#).
- c. Austin Police Department data is available to the [public here](#).

2. Updates

- a. Requests for proposals have been posted as of Friday, May 17, 2024.
- b. Project Details/Goals:
 - i. Addressing security concerns and thoughts for upcoming improvements and expansions
 - ii. Recommendations to safeguard staff, public, and facilities
 - iii. Holistic approaches to prioritize needs
 - iv. Funding for third party recommendations from Austin Parks Foundation
 - v. Standardize safety and security in our parks
 - vi. PARD partners with the Austin Police Department, district representatives, and the PARD Park Rangers (voluntary enforcement, not licensed peace keepers but can write tickets and citations)
 - vii. Security cameras in parking areas have been successful

3. Project Q&As

- a. Assuming approximately 30 facilities and properties are included in this study, is there a minimum set of facilities that PARD wants covered?
 - i. No minimum. We are searching for recommendations using the selected vendor who will work through the specifics of each individual site.
 - 1. Main categories to be covered:
 - a. Recreation Centers
 - b. Greenbelts
 - c. Metro Parks
 - ii. PARD will work with the selected vendor on a specific sub sample and collaboration on what that looks like.
- b. PARD has outlined the criteria used to evaluate offers. Is there a scoring value applied to those areas? Will PARD provide those scoring values to applicant vendors?
 - i. PARD hasn't provided values yet, but there is an opportunity to share the weights of those values to applicant vendors.

The criteria below will be used with the following weighted percentages.

30% Vendor experience and qualifications showing work within parks and in a recreation setting, safety and security and crime prevention through environmental design.

30% A vendor demonstrating fiscal responsibility, reasonable timeline and accountability in its proposal.

20% A vendor with demonstrated dedication to diversity, inclusion and equity.

20% A vendor with examples of work that are similar in size and scope to the project

- c. What safety support can PARD provide vendors to support nighttime activities onsite?
 - i. PARD could collaborate with APD (SPOC for this project).
 - 1. PARD does not have direct support from APD for park systems.
- d. To obtain basic data to ensure recommendations, what data sources will PARD provide the selected vendor to view hot spot analysis, trending analysis, etc.?
 - i. PARD will collaborate with APD to get vendor-requested data. Any specific types of data requested and be communicated to APD by PARD.
- e. For assessment tools after site visits, how much detail does PARD need to provide recommendations to those funding the project?
 - i. The assessment tool is an opportunity for facilities/sites to review outstanding needs specific to the sites. For the overall project, PARD can review this internally.
- f. With the provided time frame, will the selected vendor need to present information multiple times or in one visit?
 - i. Discussions, review of the facilities, and other communications will be done within a close cluster time frame.
 - ii. The presentation will be provided after the conclusion to be provided to PARB and Council. The selected vendor will be given the opportunity to attend this to assist with answering questions.
- g. Are there any existing countermeasures on a database that indicate locations and where they've been implemented that the selected vendor can review?
 - i. PARD does not have countermeasures documented at this time.
 - 1. PARD provides a link to the GIS Hub with all available data available to download.
 - a. Information specific to facilities and sites:
 - i. Amenities (fences, borders, etc.)
 - 2. PARD can ask their contractor, Johnson Controls, for any collected data about where they have installed their services.
 - 3. It's a plan to have security cameras setup at 4 parks by the end of May where we can provide any small amount of data those cameras collect.
 - 4. PARD can work with PARD Park Rangers to provide public contact data that they've logged into GIS regarding use and space from the community perspective.
- h. Are there any specific security concerns, facility and site types, and/or public safety concerns that PARD can provide?
 - i. A few are:

1. Parque Zaragosa (recreation center and park)
 - a. Homelessness (data collected twice a year on GIS), drug use, hangout for illegal activity
 - b. Negative impact to outdoor facilities
 2. Zilker Park (metro park, free side of Barton Springs pool)
 - a. Overdoses, open drug use, loud music, dogs off leash (off leash dogs allowed in water but not on land), fires, vandalism
 3. Givens Park (recreation center and park)
 - a. Vegetation cover, overnight use, open drug use, after hours for illegal activities (gambling, drug use), homelessness (data collected twice a year on GIS)
 4. Shoal Creek (greenbelt 2nd street - 5th street, urban trail)
 - a. Trash, graffiti, stolen items, camping in areas
 5. Recreation Sites
 - a. Main goal: how can PARD balance the difference between open, public spaces and keeping participants safe.
- i. Are there any examples of successful countermeasures within PARD?
 - i. Barton Springs Pool and Spillway (free side of Barton Springs)
 - ii. Zilker Metropolitan Park
 - j. For structural facilities, are there any as-built drawings or floor plans?
 - i. PARD currently only has emergency floor plans and emergency exit plans.
 - k. Does PARD have a program in place for high-profile events that happen on parkland?
 - i. PARD limits the scope of this project to not include high-profile events.
 - ii. These high-profile events are handled by partners.
 - l. Will the contract for this assignment be with the Austin Parks Foundation?
 - i. Yes.
 - m. Are there any preferences or guides on how PARD would like to receive workstream deliverables?
 - i. PARD does not have direction on this. PARD will be looking from guidance from vendors on what works best.
 - n. Who are the stakeholders that vendors will consult with regarding existing conditions on specific facilities, understanding more in-depth details about security concerns, and how many meetings are expected of vendors to consult?
 - i. At this time, users of various facilities (managers, staff), key stakeholders for any specific site, and APD are great resources for background and details.
 - ii. Because PARD is working internally on this project, no community engagement will be included at this time.
 - o. Out of the 30 facilities and sites, are there 30 different managers/supervisors?
 - i. Most likely, no (a specific number is not available at this time). Depending on locations, categories may have managers that manage multiple facilities and sites.

- p. Does PARD have data that shows how much a specific trail, site, park is used?
 - i. During this time, PARD has access to some trail counters through Transportation and Public Works Departments only.
 - a. This data is available for public viewing on Google
 - b. PARD can request that data, but PARD is working through privacy concerns on this.
 - ii. PARD can also offer registration data for programs at recreation centers, golf courses, and aquatic pool visits.

- q. Does PARD work with any teams or organizations that address people experiencing homelessness and will they be a part of this project?
 - i. PARD currently works with:
 - 1. The City of Austin Homeless Strategy Office (HSO)
 - a. Active encampment requests
 - b. Works with Austin Fire Department, Austin Police Department, Austin Resource Recovery, etc.
 - 2. The PARD Park Rangers
 - a. Biannual counts of people experiencing homelessness.
 - 3. A small team that deals with vacant encampments.

- r. Are any Adopt-a-Park programs considered stakeholders for any facilities, sites, parks?
 - i. Because Adopt-a-Park works heavily with PARD staff at facilities, they will be considered stakeholders.