AUSTIN PARKS FOUNDATION

2025 Impact Report

1023 Springdale Rd. #10D Austin, TX 78721 austinparks.org development@austinparks.org

DEAR FRIENDS,

A new year is upon us, and as we look back on 2025, we are in awe at all that was made possible by you - our supporters. Thanks to you, we have brand new parks to celebrate. Thanks to you, we can offer free programming that engages thousands of Austinites. Thanks to you, hundreds of parks in all ten city districts have been improved.

Here's a closer look at just a few of the highlights from the past year:

- We continued planning for the city's first All Abilities Playground, which will be built at Onion Creek Metro Park. This playground will offer universal accessibility and inclusivity for all visitors, especially for children with disabilities and special needs.
- In 2025, we hosted 92 In the Park Series events in parks across all ten council districts. These free community events welcomed more than 3,200 attendees for free programming!
- In September, APF joined Austin Parks and Recreation (APR) and Friends of Grand Meadow Park to break ground at the site of the future Grand Meadow Neighborhood Park. APF plans to invest nearly $1M into this park to make it a neighborhood destination!
- We celebrated another successful year of It's My Park Day, our biannual, community-wide volunteer event that features more than 175 park projects and thousands of volunteers. Our 2025 events generated approximately $670,000 in labor value (equal to eight full-time APR maintenance staff), with more than 1,600 cubic yards of mulch spread and 25,000 pounds of trash collected.
- We celebrated the completion of improvement projects at Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt, Scenic Brook Pocket Park and Highland Neighborhood Park, just to name a few.
- We continued to add shade structures (natural and manmade) at parks across the city as part of our $2M commitment to match the City of Austin's funds.
- And we welcomed our 100,000th rider on the new and improved Zilker Eagle Mini Train!

At a time when so much feels out of our control - our parks are something we can have a direct impact on. We're starting the new year off ready to dig in and get to work, and we hope you'll join us! Together, we can make our parks and green spaces better for everyone.

With gratitude,

Colin Wallis, Austin Parks Foundation CEO

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Chair: Luke Ellis
Vice Chair: Laura Villagran Johnson
Treasurer: Monica Fernandes
Secretary: Patty Steinwedell

Aron Burnett
Zeina El-Azzi
Bobby Garza
Jordyn Gauntt
Bobbi Kommineni
Summer Lawton
Cory Laurel
Monica Lopez Magee
Blaine Martin
Ian McAbeer
Nikelle Meade
Leticia Mendoza
Jennifer Mueller
Bob Wynn

2025 Funding Partners

Thank you to our amazing funders, sponsors and supporters who made our work possible in 2025.

Andrew Delaney Foundation | City of Austin Economic Development | City of Austin Urban Forestry Grant | Garrison Family Foundation | The Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation | Susan Vaughan Foundation | Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Recreational Trails Program

Austin Subaru | H-E-B | Samsung Austin Semiconductor | Siglo Group | Whole Foods Market

Volunteerism & Advocacy

WE LOVE TREES!

In 2025, more than 60% of our volunteer projects were focused on tree care: spreading mulch, planting trees and working to restore our native tree canopy!

Volunteerism

We believe that Austin's parks, trails and green spaces enrich our community and should be safe, accessible spaces for all Austinites. APF partners with our community to enhance and care for these spaces - working hard to close the critical gap in funding that they need to thrive. In 2025, we engaged thousands of volunteers, **including 20 corporate partner groups**, to contribute **$1.65M** worth of labor into our parks.

WE ENGAGED 16,430 VOLUNTEERS

IN 220 PARKS AROUND AUSTIN

FOR 49,290 HOURS

COMPLETING 282 PARK PROJECTS

Advocacy

Austin faces a significant challenge in parks funding that Austin Parks Foundation works diligently to help solve. In 2025 we:

- **Engaged in the FY 26 budget process, advocating for more funding for Austin Parks and Recreation (APR) and then to prevent budget cuts.**
- **Educated the community on Prop. Q's park system impact.**
- **Advocated for a strong 2026 parks bond package.**
- **Built a coalition of 20+ parks and outdoor agencies across the state to strengthen relationships, protect parks space and understand challenges that all parks are facing.**

Park Improvement Projects
& Financial Support

Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt

BEFORE

This improvement project started back in 2018 when the Pecan Springs - Springdale Hills Neighborhood Association, in collaboration with Austin Parks and Recreation (APR), Asakura Robinson and the National Park Service, initiated the vision plan for this undeveloped park space: 206 acres of hilly, wooded areas in Council District 1 .

During the vision plan process, priority projects were identified thanks to extensive community input. At the top of the list: access, trails and an adventure play area. In 2019, APF led the effort to design and implement the first trailhead on Springdale Road, with support from St. David's Foundation and other partners.

In 2020, APF granted the Pecan Springs/Springdale Neighborhood Association a design services grant to design the play area and trails to guide the first phase of implementation.

Throughout 2021 - 2023, APF and APR held virtual community meetings, incorporated feedback, finalized the design documentation, obtained permits and secured funding for Phase I to begin construction. Project support for construction came from Austin Parks Foundation, the City of Austin, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Austin City Limits Music Festival, Shield Ayres Foundation, and Alice Kleberg Reynolds Foundation

In summer 2025, construction of the trailhead park was completed, with an official public ribbon-cutting taking place on It's My Park Day, November 1st. The completed trailhead park includes play equipment, nature play features, adult fitness equipment, paved walking trails, an off-leash dog area, climbing boulder and trail connectivity.

TOTAL INVESTMENT: $756,672

AFTER

ACL Music Festival Grants

2025 marked a huge milestone for our partnership with the Austin City Limits Music Festival. As we celebrated the 20th year of this relationship, we also celebrated a historic contribution of $8.4 million in proceeds from the 2024 festival. From small improvements to full-scale renovations, these funds are allocated to support community-initiated park projects across Austin's expansive network of green spaces through our ACL Festival Grants program.

Awarded in 2025

MARY MOORE SEARIGHT METROPOLITAN PARK (78748) - $132,600

Replacement of baskets at disc golf course and installation of shade structures over the swingset and over 5-year-old playground.

PILLOW ELEMENTARY + NORTH SHOAL CREEK COMMUNITY GARDEN (78757) - $19,000

Replacement of picnic tables and community garden beds.

AUSTIN NATURE AND SCIENCE CENTER (78746) - $50,000

Updates to exhibits and accessibility upgrades for "Nature of Austin" exhibit hall.

BALCONES DISTRICT PARK (78759) - $600

Replacement of damaged mulch logs and reseeding with additional native grasses & wildflowers.

AGAVE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (78724) - $140,000

Installation of mulched trail system and upgrading of park fence.

AND COMPLETED: BARTON CREEK GREENBELT SPYGLASS TRAILHEAD (78746) - $17,000

Repair of the connection between Spyglass Trailhead and Barton Creek Trail.

AND COMPLETED: ROY G. GUERRERO COLORADO RIVER METROPOLITAN PARK (78741) - $5,720

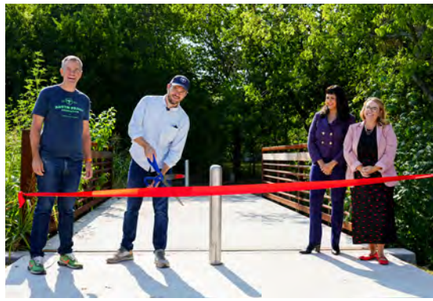
Replacement of baskets at disc golf course.

Continued

Completed in 2025

ROSEWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (78702) - $5,500

Installation of Wall of Honor at the BDHS building honoring LD Washington and Nathaniel Cannon.



HERITAGE OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (78741) - $8,800

Design and installation of nature play area.

ELISABET NEY MUSEUM (78751) - $25,000

Updates and revision of the museum's 2007 Comprehensive Restoration Master Landscape Plan.

HEZIKIAH HASKELL HOUSE (78703) - $26,900

Creation of the Haskell House Heritage Garden and improvements to the grounds and the Clarksville Community Garden.

DOTTIE JORDAN NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (78723) - $85,000

Installation of shade structure over the playground.

HIGHLAND NEIGHBORHOOD PARK (78752) - $290,722

Phase II Vision Plan Implementation - construction of the pedestrian bridge.

Park Improvement Projects

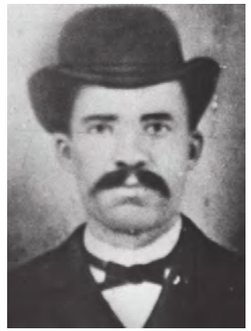
PARQUE ZARAGOZA TRAFFIC GARDEN - $150,000

Transformation of an unused parking lot into a bicycle traffic garden including planning, community engagement and construction management for the traffic garden and adjacent accessible walkway and ramp system.

SCENIC BROOK POCKET PARK - $136,990

Design services for the creation of a new pocket park, including concept, planning, community engagement and construction management.

Henry G. Madison Cabin Restoration



The Henry G. Madison cabin was built in approximately 1863 by pioneering Austin civic leader Henry Green Madison. Originally located on East 11th Street, the cabin was the home to Madison, his wife Louisa Green, and their nine children. Madison eventually built a larger home around the original cabin, which was rediscovered by a demolition crew and relocated to Rosewood Park in 1973. Austin Parks Foundation, alongside Austin Parks and Recreation, led the restoration of this historic cabin, including structural and architectural elements, as well as improvements to the site to address accessibility standards and support venue flexibility for future programming. Upon completion in 2025, the project was awarded The Preservation Austin Merit Award for Restoration and a Preservation Texas Honor Award for Historic Preservation.

TOTAL INVESTMENT: $434,956

BEFORE

AFTER

Direct Financial Support to Austin Parks & Recreation

APR PARK SYSTEM-WIDE SECURITY ASSESSMENT - $290,000

APF funded a system-wide security audit for the Austin Parks and Recreation Department that enlisted the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. The project provided a security assessment framework and tool for the Department as well as short and long-term recommendations and cost estimates.

GIVENS POOL RENOVATION - $175,000

APF provided support for the Givens Pool renovation which included a complete rebuild of the existing pool. The features of the new pool include lap lanes, zero-entry activity pool, water slide, diving board, updated bathhouse, family restrooms, training/party room, deck space and aquatics department office space.

ATHLETIC FIELD RENOVATIONS - $245,000

APF provided funding for field maintenance and field renovation to athletic fields in the park system that were identified as top priority for need. Improvements ensure the fields are healthy, functional and ready for play!

Community Park Programming

APF was proud to support some of Austin's cherished institutions through ACL-funded sponsorships this year:

- ABC Kite Fest
- Art Sparks' Art in the Park
- Austin Civic Orchestra Park Concert
- Austin Steam Train
- Austin Sunshine Camps
- Austin Symphony's 4th of July Concert
- Black History Bike Ride Juneteenth Event and Documentary
- Forklift Dance Company 2025 Fall Performance
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Juneteenth Festival
- KUTX Rock the Park Concert Series
- Las Piñatas at Dia de los Muertos
- PRIDE Fest
- Trail of Lights
- Travis County Parks Foundation's For the Love of the Parks
- Tree Folks
- Violet Crown Festival
- Zilker Hillside Theatre

Programming

IN THE PARK SERIES

Our commitment to Austin doesn't end with our work to support and improve parks, but also to activate these spaces through our signature **In the Park Series** events. Held in parks around Austin, this series aims to engage Austinites of all ages with Playdates, Fitness, Movies, Art, and more. These events also allow us to support local non-profit organizations through event partnerships, like Creative Action, Aging is Cool, Painting Pandas and Make a Difference Sports.

In 2025, we engaged **3,225 park goers** in **94 total In the Park Series events**, 67 of which were focused in parks across the east side of Austin. We added two new events: Hoops in the Park, a series of basketball skills workshops, and Spark in the Park, an outdoor wellness series focused on supporting aging adults.

Our summer Movies in the Park on the water at Deep Eddy Pool continued with a special Pride Month showing of "The Half of It", followed by "Moana 2" in July and "Splash" in August. Fitness in the Park spanned spring, summer and fall, supported by Better Foundation Fitness, Habitat Retreats and Good Fight Fitness. Local businesses got involved in supporting these and other programming through in-kind donations, like Goodpop, H-E-B and Cornucopia Popcorn.

IT'S MY PARK DAY

We celebrated another year of our biannual, city-wide volunteer event, It's My Park Day, on the first Saturdays of March and November. These events bring together park lovers from all corners of Austin to spend the morning giving back in community-initiated park projects aimed at improving and activating our outdoor spaces.

Our 2025 events made an impact:

177 PARK PROJECTS

40 COMMUNITY ACTIVATION EVENTS

1,684 CUBIC YARDS OF MULCH SPREAD

25,820 POUNDS OF TRASH COLLECTED

$668,864 OF LABOR CONTRIBUTED TO OUR PARKS

Adopt - A- Park

The success of our parks system depends on the support, assistance, advocacy and enthusiasm of the public as stewards of their parks. The **Adopt-A-Park Program** helps citizens like you become those stewards through a collaborative partnership between Austin Parks & Recreation and Austin Parks Foundation. The goal of this program is to build community pride and ownership around every neighborhood park in Austin.

In 2025, the program grew to **128 total Park Adopter and Steward groups** around Austin, with the formation of **4 new Adopt-A-Park groups** at Georgian Acres Neighborhood Park, Mueller Greenways, Garrison District Park and Pillow School Park.

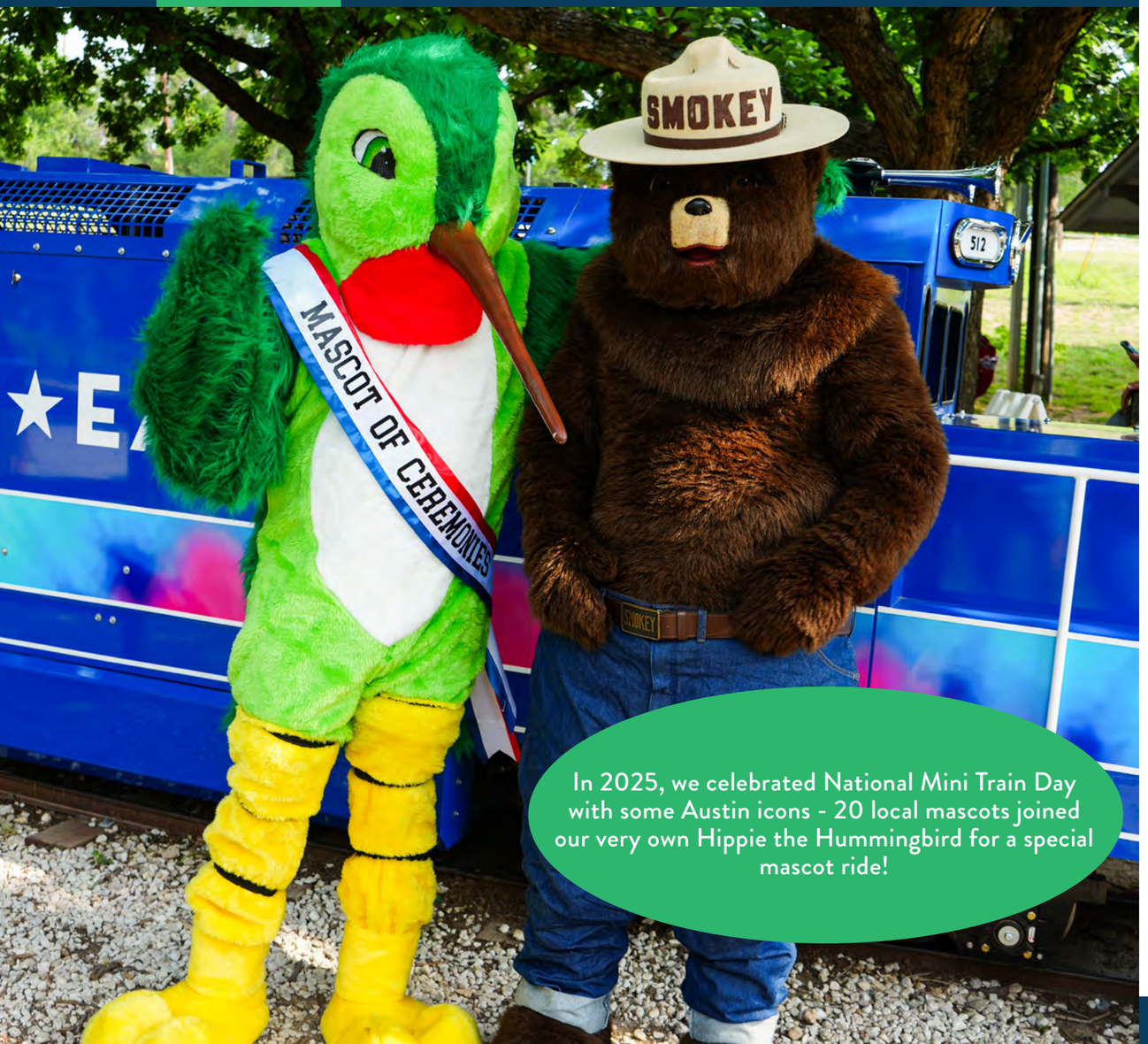
This year's Parks Summit brought together 128 park adopters, advocates and stakeholders to collaborate and learn how to best steward our green spaces together.

Sponsored Fund Accounts

Austin Parks Foundation's **Sponsored Fund Accounts** (SFAs) allow Adopt-A-Park groups to fundraise for their park by utilizing our 501(c)3 non-profit status. This year, our groups **raised a total of $218,027** across 70 Sponsored Fund Accounts - including 14 community gardens and **7 new accounts** opened in 2025.

APF matches funds raised by SFAs during Amplify Austin, which totaled $51,485 in 2025. We contributed an additional $45,193 as part of the match.

Zilker Eagle
Miniature Train



In 2025, we celebrated National Mini Train Day with some Austin icons - 20 local mascots joined our very own Hippie the Hummingbird for a special mascot ride!

This year marked the one year anniversary of the Zilker Eagle Mini Train - and it was certainly a year to remember! In June, APF hosted a free community event to celebrate this milestone, inviting Austinites of all ages to join us for a day of fun, including treats, train-themed arts and crafts, balloons and face painting, and free train rides.

2025 marked another milestone, welcoming our **100,000th rider** since the train's opening in 2024. More than **9,000 riders took advantage of our free community rides** this year, joining us on the first Friday of every month. In addition, nearly **4,000 free rides were offered** on additional days throughout 2025.

We partnered with our community to provide **1,200 discounted group rides** for school groups, as well as free rides for more than 500 Austin Sunshine Camp campers to kick off their summer in June and July. In November, Helping Hand Home Charter School students visited the train for their second annual trip.

Zilker Eagle Sponsors

BILL WOOD FOUNDATION

goodpop

MORELAND PROPERTIES

NORTHERN TRUST

REISSA FOUNDATION

PNC BANK

TEJEMOS FOUNDATION

woom

CONNECT WITH US!

Follow us on social media, subscribe to our email newsletters or visit our website to get involved in your local parks!

@AUSTINPARKSFDN

AUSTIN PARKS FOUNDATION