

2016 BALCONES PARK SURVEY RESPONSES

There were 448 respondents to the survey.

Q1: Please add the number of individuals in your household that fall within each age range.

	<u>Number</u>
36 to 45 years	1.4
21 to 35 years	1.27
46 to 64 years	1.25
0 to 5 years	1.25
6 to 10 years	1.09
11 to 15 years	0.70
65 and up	0.69
16 to 20 years	0.65

Q2: How close do you live in relation to Balcones Park?

50 percent of the respondents live within ½ mile of the park.

47 percent live within 3 miles.

Only 1.5% responded that they live within 5 miles.

Q3: In the last year, how often have you used Balcones Park?

Weekly	36%
A few times per year	26%
Monthly	24%
Daily	5%
Never	4%

Selected responses:

Some people noted using it when they have care of their grandchildren.

Someone noted walking the trails regularly.

More than one person noted frequent use during the fall and summer; less frequent use in the summer.

"We belong to Boy Scout Troop 421, and meet there monthly before each campout."

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"...(W)e would go weekly if there was more shade and if the playground was a little more suited to toddlers."

"Seldom because of lack of shade, broken playground equipment, and lots of ants near pool grounds."

"We go to other parks that are further."

Q4: In the last year, which of the following activities did you engage in at Balcones Park? (Please check ALL that apply.)

Walk/Run/Hike	80%	1st
Use trail along creek	59%	Tied 2
Playground	59%	Tied 2
Swim	58%	Tied 2
Use Northern Walnut Creek Trail	42%	5 th
Exercising dog	28%	Tied 6 th
Bike	28%	Tied 6 th
Group Gatherings (parties, picnics, etc)	27%	Tied 6 th
Relaxing or Lunch	20%	9 th
Basketball	7%	10 th
Group Workout (yoga, Stroller Strides)	4%	Tied 11 th
Sand Volleyball	3%	Tied 11 th

Selected responses:

Three people responded that they visited the park for the July 4th parade.

Two people responded that they participated in a park cleanup event.

Four people responded that they participated in Cub Scout activities.

"Participated in a group called "Austin Free Forest School", that uses the different trails to get to different spots in the park (by the water/open meadows/cliffs/etc). Great fun for little kids."

Meditation, solo yoga.

Five people responded that they use the park to play Pokemon Go.

Two people responded: "See the wildflowers...."

One person responded that they visited the park for neighborhood parties and events.

One person responded that they visited the park for the annual Easter egg hunt.

Q5: The Co-Adopters of Balcones Park's current goal is to develop a concept plan for the playground and pavilion based on the funding that has been received. While locations for the playground/pavilion are considered, we

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would like to know if there are other amenities that would increase your use of the park. ...What amenities would bring you to Balcones Park more often? (Please select your top six choices.)

429 respondents to Q5.

		<u>Rank</u>	<u>Votes</u>
Pool improvements	66%	1 st	284
Improved trails (add signage, mark distances, improve quality)	58%	2 nd	250
Shade-covered relaxing locations (such as benches, picnic tables, etc.)	55%	Tied 3 rd	236
Playground improvements	54%	Tied 3 rd	232
Interactive water feature	51%	5 th	219
Bathroom enhancements	39%	6th	166
Pavilions	35%	7 th	152
Native/wildflower beds or gardens	26%	8 th	111
Tennis courts	23%	Tied 9 th	100
Improved crosswalk across Amherst	22%	Tied 10 ^t	92
Fenced-in, off-leash dog park	21%	Tied 10 th	92
Fitness equipment	17%	Tied 12 th	73
Tree beautification (pruning, stump/dead tree removal)	17%	Tied 12 th	72
Musical play equipment	13%	Tied 14 th	56
Amphitheater	12%	Tied 14 th	55
Sidewalk from Amherst into parking lot and to the pool	12%	Tied 14 th	53
Interpretative talk location/signage (history/education)	5%	Tied 17 th	21
Other outdoor sport activity (Please list in comment section.)	4%	Tied 17 th	19
Electrical outlets	4%	Tied 17 th	16

72 respondents made comments. (17%)

Selected responses:

Related to pool:

Small toddler wading pool or splash pad near the pool area.

Accessible pool lift into the pool.

Water Park- wave pool, slide, lazy river (all small-sized).

"Cleaner pool. I would love a bigger pool or different shaped pool, deeper pool etc. but realize it's not in budget. Pool open year round."

Pool shot/ water basketball

"An eating place near or at the pool would be nice- there are so many ants there that they don't allow us to eat inside the gate. If one kid is hungry we have to pull everyone out and leave, then come back."

"A water feature would be great. It is so hot here in Austin, and the pool is open so few months. I would LOVE to see the pool season expanded, too."

"Splash pad would help take the load off of the pool which is often overcrowded. Extend fenced area with picnic tables and shade. Plant trees along fenceline on entrance side."

Better pool maintenance

"I refuse to use the pool b/c there are no chairs. We always go elsewhere and it makes me sad every time."

"Pool needs renovating -- chunks of concrete have fallen off edges and steps of pool. Hazardous."

"Having the pool open all year would increase our enjoyment of the park by a huge amount. I have heard the pool used to be open all year and is equipped to be heated. That would be so fantastic, even if it was only open in the mornings and evenings for lap swimmers."

"Heated pool features would be great."

"Better pool, year-round swim (like the one on Lakecreek). We are in a perfect area for it. Could make the pool earn its keep for the city. There is not another one close and there are a lot of families in the area."

Related to trails:

Loop trail for running/jogging/exercise

"Finish the Walnut Creek path- connect it and we would use it all time."

"Trail and fields guides to nature in the park especially the wildflower area, a gem that is not experienced enough."

"Trail near the creek, needs some additional concrete poured in a few areas where there are holes or when it gets too narrow for people to pass each other. This doesn't need a major update, just some touch ups to make it easier to use."

"The trail by the creek is in awful shape. (T)hat could be a wonderful trail if it got a little love."

"Don't desire better signage for trails, but do wish the creek had the debris moved out so that the water could flow and not be stagnant."

"(1) By improved trails, I don't mean wider, less shade, or paved (yuk). Walnut Creek Park has trees laid across paths we should avoid, and signage with trail names. That kind of improvement. (2) The walkway under Duval to the other side feels unsafe and often fills with water. Not sure how to fix.

Related to playground improvements:

More swings.

"The grassy area between the playground and Amherst has some potential places for little kids to fall and get hurt, such as the cement trash can enclosure and some sort of hidden sharp rocky patches. Also, the cement wall between the playground and lower grassy area is sharp and dangerous with a little kid. If it's possible to change those things (maybe add a slope or fence in place of the steep wall), that would be great!"

Shade

Related to bathroom enhancements:

"Bathroom enhancements is my number one."

Related to pavilions:

"I don't see a need for a pavilion though, there are so many trees with shade, just more tables under the trees."

Two different sizes for pavilions

Barbeque pits

Related to native/wildflower beds or gardens:

"More wildflowers in the wildflower meadow. I really love all the trees that have been planted to help replace those lost in recent years due to drought."

Related to tennis courts:

"There are no tennis courts in this part of the city. This park has PLENTY of room for at least 2."

Badminton/ squash courts

Pickleball courts

Related to crosswalks:

"It would be great if there was a walkway either under or over Parmer that could connect those neighborhoods north of Parmer to Amherst and allow better access for pedestrians and cyclists."

"The crosswalk across Amherst is fine, but cars won't stop for you. Need to have police stake this out to ticket people."

Related to dogs:

"(1) Add a low to the ground drinking fountain for dogs to the current drinking fountain!!!! 2) Dog waste disposal stations (with bags) at the bottom of the trail (where the trail by the creek and the section by the baseball field meet) 3) Dog waste disposal stations (with bags) at the bottom of hill at the start of the trail (by Duval)."

Related to electrical outlets:

Near any pavilions, near playground, near any table locations

Other comments:

Disc Golf- 10 comments

BMX/skate park/pump track/ skills area- 6 comments (Kids use Milwood Church parking lot/grassy areas now.)

"Something like regular yoga in the park." Outdoor tai chi- 3 comments

Artwork/sculptures- 2 comments, including one request for art on the trails

Bocci or boules courts- 2 comments

Surveillance- 2 comments

Trees for shade in the parking lot.

"Fewer people, people obeying the leash ordinance!"

WiFi hot spot

Food trucks/ snow cone trucks

Snack bar

"Better lighting in the park is certainly necessary."

"Consider making the park unique. Musical play equipment, a splash pad, wildflower gardens. I am concerned about laying concrete for a pavilion. Why not a pavilion over a grassy expanse?"

Improvements to the basketball court

Covered/shaded basketball court

"None like as is."

Soccer field

"We have always had to travel to other pools with splash pads, diving boards, pavilions and tennis courts. We've lived in neighborhood over 10 years."

Working water fountain

Q7: Do you walk, bicycle, or drive to Balcones Park? (Check ALL that apply.)

429 respondents to Q7 (96%).

Drive 74%

Walk 68%

Bike 40%

187 respondents made comments.

Selected responses:

Nineteen people noted it depends on the weather.

Fifteen people noted they drive due to dogs, grandparent, and/or children.

Fifteen people noted they walk and/or bike to the park for the exercise.

Fourteen people noted they usually walk or that they live very close by.

Eleven people noted they choose the mode of transportation based on timeframe and schedule.

Ten people noted that the park is too far away to walk.

Seven people noted that his/her children aren't old enough to bike yet, but four families will bike when the children are older.

Six people noted they live on the north side of Parmer or have to cross Parmer, so they drive.

Four people noted distance too long to have time to walk there and back.

Three people said their mode of transportation depends on how much stuff they need to carry.

Two people noted that after using the pool, they want to drive home since it requires the least amount of exertion. Also four people noted their family brings pool toys or has too many carry items for the pool so driving is easier.

Two people noted they drive because they live over a mile away and have three small children.

Two people noted they don't have a bike.

One person noted that their children sometime bike even though they live 1.5 miles from the park.

One person responded that they have a disability.

One person noted that if he/she is going for a long walk on the trail, he/she drives.

One person noted they are awaiting the completion of the Walnut Creek Trail.

One person noted that once the Walnut Creek Trail is complete, they will bike from the ballfield on Scribe to avoid traffic.

One person meets with the Tuesday Night Northside Social Ride.

One person said they would bike, but he/she has a baby, and it's too hot.

One person noted they typically drive because they live 1 mile from park but will ride a bike in cooler weather.

One person noted that they live on the opposite side of Mopac.

People note they drive in the summer because it is too hot and their walk would be 30 minutes.

Transportation choice depends on the reason for the park visit.

Transportation choice depends on the number of children visiting the park.

Relating to dangerous conditions:

Two people noted that traffic does not stop at the crosswalk and feels dangerous for kids to cross.

Three people commented about drivers' disregard of the crosswalk, even when someone is in the crosswalk.

"We drive because it's difficult to cross Amherst on bike/stroller."

Three people noted that the traffic is too busy on Duval.

One person noted they drive because he/she doesn't feel it is safe to bike on Amherst with children.

"I drive because of the danger of riding a bicycle across the Mopac & Parmer Lane intersection. I bike sometimes using the Waters Park road."

Two people stated it is unsafe to bike on Duval with children.

"Because the bike lane on Duval is dangerous with children."

One person noted that Amherst needs a crossing light.

"We live in Angus Valley. The park is a little far to walk and the bike lanes and speed of traffic don't feel safe for biking."

Two people noted it is too dangerous to cross Parmer.

"Drive when too concerned about traffic. Walk on rare occasions, and it was more frequent when we could put our daughter in a stroller (now that she is 3, she wants to walk, which is tricky when crossing Amherst)."

One person noted that during high traffic, it is too dangerous to walk.

"I live in the north wood neighborhood. There is no sidewalk along Parmer from Silver Creek to Amherst. That small stretch of road is too dangerous to walk with children."

"I would prefer to walk or bike to the park, but would appreciate a safer way to cross Parmer than at the Silver Creek light."

Related to recreation:

"Bicycle and drive because bicycling is so much more engaging and connects me to neighbors I pass."

"I like hiking trails, not walking in the neighborhood, so I drive there to expedite hiking the trail."

Related to bicycle parking:

"I mostly ride my bike to the park. (T)here is not currently bicycle parking at the playground."

Related to weather:

"I walk 90% of the time and drive 10% of the time. I drive for convenience but sometimes with kids especially, a walk in heat is too high."

"Heat and minimal shade areas to recover from walking there."

Related to convenience:

"We walk or bike mostly. Drive usually if we stop on the way home from somewhere or if we have additional kids/older family that are going."

"We walk and bike the trails and drive to the park to swim."

In the summer, the three mile walk would be too far to the pool.

"Often if we are headed to the playground or pool we will ride with a bike trailer towing the kids. (I) live close enough that a walk or bike ride is the most fun way to get to the park, and there are nice bike lanes and trails to make it relatively easy. We only drive if we have other errands to run."

"Limited mobility."

Related to amenities:

"We live across the street. We rarely visit because the playground is small and mostly broken and the trail is either flooded or covered in poison ivy."

Q8: Do you ever have trouble finding a parking spot? If so, please list the times/days of week.

294 respondents to Q8 (66%).

No 94% 277

Yes 6% 17

Selected responses:

Related to events:

"But this is the rare occasion like when Walgreens does the Easter Egg Hunt or on the big park clean-up day."

"Usually during neighborhood wide events, so really to be expected. But occasionally on a weekend if there are single motorcycles in each spot."

"The only times there's been a problem is when there's some event or at the prime time for swimming, ie: afternoon/weekends."

"Only during things like park day or big events, which is expected. It would be nice to have a bike parking nearer the playground equipment and maybe a small motorcycle parking area added to free up car spots."

Unrelated to events:

"(Y)es, sometimes. Saturday, Sunday. Might be a larger problem once Walnut Creek trail is complete."

"Some on Saturday or Sunday and holidays."

"Need more parking, it fills up fast on weekends. Primetime and weekends."

"Sometimes. Usually around 5-6 PM on weekdays."

"During swim season, it can be full in the evening, even on weekdays."

"The only parking lot concern I have is that occasionally a yoga or workout group is using a portion of the lot or trailhead for their class."

"I park on Scribe."

"Any weekend and any weekday after 4."

Do not have trouble:

"Never have trouble."

"Never have, always seems adequate to me."

Related to materials:

"Any expansion of the pavement should either use porous ground cover so water can percolate through, or there should be a sink of some sort to collect polluted runoff from the parking area."

Q9: Please rank your playground location preference, with 1 being the highest. (The pavilion will be installed in the same proximity.)

379 respondents to Q9 (85%).

		<u>Score</u>	<u>First Choice</u>
Location #1	Current	3.13	43%
Most appropriate and cost efficient per design team		2.60	36%
Location #2	Near the volleyball court	2.50	23%
Location #3	In the meadow behind the pool	2.21	11%

Q10: Please rank the playground themes with 1 being your first preference.

374 respondents to Q10 (83%).

		<u>Score</u>	<u>First Choice</u>
Nature-based Play		3.99	40%
Traditional		3.43	27%
Kinetic/Contemporary		3.10	18%
Most appropriate per design team		2.63	21%
Thematic		2.39	4%

Q11: Is there a playground in the city that you will drive out of your way to go to? Or several? Please list & tell us why:

Selected responses:

	<u>Votes</u>
Play for all Abilities- Round Rock-	11
Shade, gated, water, bathrooms, big sandbox	
Springwood Park-	16
Shade, lots of activity, different ages separated, trails, field for sports, large size, multiple levels of equipment, nice bathrooms, benches, tables, sandbox, space to run and for group games, pavilions, tracks for scooter/bikes, 2 tennis courts, highest climbing structure in N. Austin for kids to judge risk	
Robinson Park	7
Toddler area, big kid, short trail to playing fields, shade, artificial grass protects from insects	
Zilker Park	6
Train ride, nearby trails, large playground, old fire truck	
Katherine Fleischer	6
Shady, like treehouse structure, different ages, stream	
Ramsey Park	6
Good for older kids, lots of space, includes nature-based log area, scooter/bike trails ringing	
Mueller Lake Park	6
Challenges, fenced, swings and climbing, sand pits, lake, developmentally engaging play	
Rattan Creek (not in Austin)	5
Shade, green, climbing, big play structures, seating options	

Q12: Other thoughts about the playground and its location, theme or types of elements:

120 respondents to Q11 (27%)

Selected comments:

Related to Location #1:

“Current location is not large enough and is too close to trail head. Consider keeping a small area for group exercise such as yoga/cross fit in the current playground location and discourage groups from using the trail head as a group exercise area.”

“The current space is accessible for many needs (bathroom, parking, shade for benches) and is a good distance from busy streets (Amherst and Duval). Putting a playground near streets is an illogical move. The inconvenience of 9 months of construction does not outweigh the decades of safe, shaded and convenient play for children and families. I look forward to the new concepts that have been introduced to other parks (like Ramsey and Zilker) and believe our great park should join them.”

"Being under the shade I think is very important. The area where it is now has a huge shade tree and I think that needs to be a very important factor if moving it."

"I love the current location, I love that there's some shade and am concerned that none of the other areas may have the same amount of shade. The more we read about sun exposure and skin cancer, I think that should be at the forefront of our decisions."

"If location other than 1 is chosen, I would like to see area #1 go back to natural landscape."

"Shade and safety are my biggest priorities! Would love our playground to be closer to the street for the viability factor. The current location is close to the path, where a lot of people go that don't have kids, and I often don't feel safe there by myself."

"It seems that the pavilion & playground area in location #1 makes the most sense for our annual 4th of July event."

Related to Location #2:

"I would like to keep location 2 available for future tennis courts/amenities."

"I like the idea of location 2 if there can be fencing around the playground - otherwise would be very concerned about proximity to Amherst traffic."

"For location 2 - move the volleyball court to the west of current location #1 and put tot lot where volleyball court is. It would be great to get 2 age/stage playgrounds. Maybe separate area for swings (designated)."

"Isn't the pavilion going to require cutting down trees? That's why I vote for option 2 because there are less trees to cut down."

"I strongly believe that the new location should be chosen to keep the current playground open. 6-9 months is a long time for some families to not have a nearby playground area. While it is always necessary to balance the short and long term benefits, I believe that site 2 is nearly as good or better than site 1, so the added benefit of keeping the original playground open during construction is icing on the cake."

"One of the cons listed for Option 2 is potentially moving the volleyball court. That's not so bad because the location for the current playground could become the new location for the volleyball courts, which could actually be nicer than the current location - a double win."

Related to Location #3:

"For Location 3 - it would work if new parking is built closer to it."

"Playground option #3 is not a good choice. The tree cover alongside Walnut Creek should be preserved. That helps control runoff and pollution into the creek and serves as shelter for wildlife."

"Please leave the meadow behind the pool for us with dogs - Keep natural look."

Related to any location:

"Keep away from major streets."

"Keep park entry roads away from Amherst/Duval intersection. Also, the playground needs to be seen well from the street to alert that draw in users. The current wild flower area should be expanded with featured colorful natives."

"I do not think it would be safe near Duval or Amherst. I also worry about the kids breathing in the exhaust from the cars sitting at the light."

"Safety is major concern."

"Please locate the play area in good shady area that is very visible. Visibility is key for safety for moms."

"Away from parking lot."

"Being somewhat near to bathrooms is important, especially for small kids. If it is closer to Amherst, maybe there can be some sort of element to block kids from easily getting to the busy road."

"Shade is nice to have but consider impacts of construction and increased compaction and potential damage to trees from users of playground when choosing new site. Perhaps shade structures would be better to incorporate into design? Trees require regular clearance pruning over play structures, their health is often negatively impacted by construction and increased traffic on root systems, trees don't live forever and need to be monitored closely when a target rich playscape is set at their feet. Just things to consider."

"Optimize for the least amount of habitat destruction as possible. Whichever location requires the fewest trees to be cut down and does not harm the creek ecosystem."

"Whatever destroys the least amount of trails and greenery."

"Seems like it would make more sense to be by the road, but I'd love to see the wooded area be used better for a picnic area. This big open area of trees goes to waste."

"...Upgrades to the baseball field area would be ideal!!! Small play scape over there would be well received."

"Playgrounds on the trail are fun because it incorporates more activity for bike rides and bigger family days."

"I like it being near trails like a mini Zilker."

"Proximity to water/lake."

Related to theme:

"Theme: something Austin-y!"

"Austin theme with shade!"

"Please choose a natural design, fitting for our environment...."

"Please don't make it ugly and clash with the beautiful natural spaces currently on site. Please consider adding botanical/natural elements."

"It should blend in with nature. And not look like a carnival."

"Some variety would be much appreciated, less swings and more activities!"

"Granddaughter finds most playscapes "a boring collection of platforms that aren't really that much fun to play on." So something with elements to spark a child's imagination and creativity would be lovely. Something where they can easily play pretend and make up stories while playing on the equipment. My g-daughter speaks of a park she goes to that has a castle. She has fun there."

"If it's possible to add in elements of all the themes-- that would be best. I do know that my kids enjoy climbing a lot, and treehouse, bridged type play areas are their favorite. Any parqur type elements would be appreciated as well. Also, the pretend city block with bike streets and such like the Play For All Abilities Park has could be neat to have. I think it's worth the extra effort to be further from the traffic though. A great playground will bring people whether or not they can see it from the street."

"Thematic parks seem dated quickly."

"We are in a stage of life where the park is for our children and we know this will be true for generations of Milwood residents. We would like to see adult groups and hikers taken care of, but our priority is families particularly those with children 5 and under."

"Aesthetically there is already a substantial amount of fencing/playground on Amherst, so don't like the idea of adding more."

"My children are older so it would be nice to have an appropriate age section for younger and older kids. If that's not possible, then some things off to the side of the main play area would be nice to engage the older kids."

"I want the different age levels to be close enough together that my different age level kids are close enough that I can see both or not have to decide which playground to play on and upset one."

"It would be really great to have some activities or elements of the playgroup at this playground that would engage older kids like the ones above."

"Have items that little bitty kids can play on as well as big kids."

"It would be nice to have enough varied elements to keep things interesting as kids get older - such as the playhouse at Katherine Fleischer or enough nature elements for extended pretend play."

"(I)f thematic, wild flowers could be a cool theme. (O)lder kids really like climbing walls and net/rope features. (A) dirt bmx or pump track would be an intestine and unique feature for kids to use bikes on safer than skateboarding and relatively low cost addition, just dirt and some shovels."

"Splash pad would be positive addition. Also important to maintain natural untouched land with all the trees & large wild flower areas."

"Water play area would be nice."

"It's nice to have a playground in the neighborhood but it's a neighborhood park and attracting lots of people from other areas seems like a bad idea."

"Consider what is available at Summit down Amherst. May be nice to complement versus duplicate."

"We need shade but also open space for football and soccer etc."

"It would be interesting to see if the developers will choose to spearhead an innovative playground or stick to the boring traditional playgrounds that don't push the move into STEM."

"Built to last."

"Minimize plastic. (P)laygrounds should enhance nature and be sustainable. More and more research indicates plastic is not healthy, and the next 500 years of humanity shouldn't have to live with it."

"Similar to Tatum's garden in Salinas, CA."

"I don't have any children in my life, so I don't really care about the playground."

Related to types of elements:

"More swings. Tire swing? Don't use sand, woodchips, or foam playpad. Maybe pebbles or rocks?"

"SWINGS!!! Making a playground that is fun and accessible for a wide range of ages/abilities. Not closer to the street unless there is going to be some sort of enclosure around the playground."

"Maximize shade, limit metal features in non-shade area. Seating around structure, keep trash bins away from play area (flies/bees). Include working drinking fountains near play area. Add crosswalk light. Add natural "fencing" between playground and street (location 1). Add fitness equipment at original playscape location."

"The typical play equipment is a must (slides, swings, etc.) but having something unique would be wonderful! Zipline, climbing area, interactive music area. Love the spinwheel at Mueller Park by the Thinkery. Balance Beams, see saws, pretend play (think castles, fire trucks, cars, etc.)"

"Should also have sand box/Dino dig."

"No sand pit please."

"If there is a sandbox, can it be somehow separated from the rest of the playground? Though some people love them, there are also many that really try to stay away from them. It's very hard to keep kids away if it's too close to the playground equipment."

"The Dino Dig looks like it would get used as a cat litter box by all the neighborhood cats. Yuck!"

"We would like more swings and different types, ie. for more than one kid, spinning, etc. Also more elements that are accessible to those with disabilities."

"Climbing wall, gravel chimes at the Ross Perot museum (so great for toddlers), curvy slides, interactive elements, if thematic is chosen a train play structure would be nice,"

"It needs a nice area for parents to sit."

"Like recycled tire padding is soft and fun to play it, also like soft/ foamy colored as in Colorado river park, like see saws, possibly material on slide that doesn't get too hot."

"Access to water fountains that stay turned on would be nice."

"Fire ants need to be treated more frequently. Have severe allergy to them."

"The small individual spinning pieces at Phil's & Rattan Creek seem to be kid favorites, in addition to a big central piece."

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Q13: Which amenities do you feel are most important to have for the Playground: (RANK with 1 being your highest priority)

352 respondents to Q13 (78%)

	<u>Score</u>	<u>First Choice</u>
Shade for playground users	7.18	63%
Shade for playground caregivers	6.33	14%
Seating: Benches or Picnic Tables	5.14	6%
Close Proximity of Bathrooms	4.48	4%
Water Fountain	4.40	9%
Close to Pavilion for Gatherings	3.37	3%
Close Proximity to Parking Lot	3.21	1%
Secured / Fenced in some way (for example: hedges or fence)	2.96	4%

**Q14: Which amenities do you feel are most important for the pavilion that will be located near the playground:
(RANK with 1 being your highest priority.)**

336 respondents to Q14 (75%)

	<u>Score</u>	<u>First Choice</u>
Picnic Tables	5.90	48%
Water Access: Faucet or Water Fountain	4.67	21%
Lights	4.22	13%
Seating Wall	3.68	7%
Close Proximity to Parking Lot	3.51	12%
Electrical Outlets	3.44	4%
BBQ Pit	3.34	4%

Q15: Other IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES in the PARK: Austin Parks Foundation offers a Neighborhood Grant in the amount of \$5,000 or less for smaller improvements and repairs in a park. The list below includes improvements that fall into this price range. Please select 3 improvements that you like to see in Balcones Park.

360 respondents to Q15 (80%)

More & New Trash Receptacles 61%

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Recycling Bins	5%
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Pool Landscaping	49%
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Small Bathroom Upgrades (enter details in comments)	47%
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More Bike Racks	27%
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Improved Sand for Volleyball Court	18%
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Selected comments:

Related to trash cans and recycling:

“Recycling would be AMAZING! So much of the stuff in the trash would easily be recyclable.”

“Recycling bins: yes, please!”

“For the trash cans - have modern ones that have slide lids that stay shut. Recycling bins - Yay! Aren't we a recycling city?”

“Trash and recycling bins should have small openings to reduce items being blown out and onto the ground.”

“Let's begin with a "pack it in, pack it out" strategy, meaning no trash or recycling bins. Identify locations for placing bins for future use only if litter becomes a problem.”

Related to bathrooms:

“Bathrooms are gross, I won't use them. Make them ungross and we will. Trash often becomes overfilled.”

“Bathroom could use good floor cleaning, maybe put on a sealant and fix fixtures if broken, or not functional.”

“More stalls, better lighting, door easier to lock, soap or hand sanitizer.”

“Add soap dispensers to the bathrooms.”

“The bathrooms are very dark. Replace toilets and sink.”

“Doors don't lock well in small bathrooms, no soap to wash hands. Very dusty by pool.”

“Just making sure bathroom has supplies. (soap/tp). Perhaps a light? It's always so dark in there.”

“A bathroom that is similar to the park at Mueller is nice.”

“...Remove floor mats (yuck!).”

“The small bathroom doors don't shut properly. The toilet in the women's is difficult to flush. There is no soap.”

“Showers in bathrooms.”

“Entrance doors and privacy improvements.”

“Cleaner bathrooms, more stalls, less prison-like.”

"The bathrooms are the dirtiest and nastiest bathrooms I have ever been to and smell like fermented urine and bacteria."

"Better ventilation."

"Better doors my kids have a hard time using them and there are no handles inside to pull it closed so you can lock them and maybe a step for the kids to use the sink and replace the damaged 'mirrors.'

"Divisions for showers in women's pool house or individual changing areas. It's awkward to take a child of a different gender into the bath house to change into/out of swim suit."

"Kid sized stall."

"The few times I've been in the bathroom it has been really dirty and gross. I do not want my child touching anything in it so upgrades and cleanliness overall would be appreciated."

Related to pool landscaping:

"I honestly think the money should go towards pool landscaping. It needs A LOT of work to be a desire able location to be at and I want it to feel that way so I can be proud of my community pool."

"Would LOVE to see some seating around the pool area."

"The pool has no landscaping. Could use some beauty!"

Related to landscape:

"Disposal of Tree Stumps." (multiple comments)

"Addition of 2 Larger Shade Trees." (multiple comments)

"Do not remove tree stumps in the park - use them for benches & plantings!"

Related to lighting:

"Lighting for play areas including basketball and Volleyball courts, maybe with timer so they stay on for as long as someone is playing."

"Better/brighter lighting."

Other:

"Anything will be an upgrade.""

"I think a dog watering station would be nice - next to or below current water fountains."

"Motorcycle/ bike parking area that's not part of the existing area."

"A few more picnic tables/ places to relax."

"Seating along walking trails. Covered seating around park."

"...Signage and map (sign) of the park where everything is. I've had to just walk the park to find trails, etc."

"The pool and pool house look very sad and outdated. Somehow giving those areas a facelift would likely increase the use."

"More water fountains."

"Cold water to drink."

"Fence for off leash area. One area for small to medium dogs and a second area for medium to large dogs."

"Better seating."

"Monuments, art (sculpture especially), fountain, nature guide posting/markers."

"Spruce up entrance bed with new/more natives. Nothing high maintenance."

"A different surface than concrete for the pavilion floor. Please don't pour concrete. Surely there is a natural surface (grass?) that would be preferable to concrete."

"Lines for volleyball court."

"Any additional energy needs (such as lighting at the pavilion) should come from solar; this reduces the long term operation costs."

"My main thing is the trail system."

"Solar lights on the trail. Splash pad addition to the pool, or more shade in general, perhaps for the cars."

"Fix playground."

Q16: Are you interested in volunteering to help make improvements happen or to help in a Balcones Park work day?

357 respondents to Q16 (80%)

Yes	27%
No	25%
Maybe, email me details	48%

Q19: Please leave any additional feedback here:

Related to courts:

"I'd love to see a tennis court at this park. The nearest public tennis court is at Walnut Creek Park, which is quite a drive. Austin Parks has several in central Austin, but tennis courts up north are sparse."

"Please consider building tennis courts. Our community would greatly benefit!"

"The volleyball and basketball court are great for our park. They are used by teenagers or adults."

"Please add tennis courts. There are no public or neighborhood courts in this area and we have a HUGE park to fit them in--plus this park has everything else."

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Other feedback:

"I agree with other neighbors that keeping a similar feeling to our current park. A good balance of nature & play. I would like to see maybe some more art features, whether that be sculptures, graffiti art walls anything."

"The "themed" crosswalk sounds like a cool idea."

"I miss the shade from the trees by the parking lot. I see that new trees were planted and are being watered. I hope they will continue to be cared for so that one day there will be shade again."

"Continuity of style - cohesiveness both in function and aesthetics. My choice is "3" - because it is further away from the road (Amherst) However, a more comprehensive subsequent plan, would bring a better basis to make a decision."

"Creative crosswalk. Branding for neighborhood. Accessible for special needs population. Long range trail to wildflower bed. Trail down to stream."

"Park - create a playground that reflects the geology/personality/culture vibe of our neighborhood: wildflowers, red rocks, high tech employers nearby, etc. Non sterile playground design. Aesthetically pleasing pavilion/ shades (typically ugly n most parks). If we are limited by regulated safety designs for the playground proper, let's be creative with everything surrounding it, after all this is Austin."

"Please try to incorporate features that will appeal to older kids too. (ie, motor challenges like climbing, balance, etc.) I think major priorities for a playground should be: 1) parking in close proximity, bathroom in close proximity, water fountain. 2) Seating, at least partial shade for playground and seating."

"The natural setting alongside Walnut Creek should be preserved. Steps should be taken to control runoff."

"With the new bike trail, more features for bike riders (water fountains, bike racks) will build more loyal users."

"An interpretive linking of elements in park, new and old, would really help. Signs (4'x8") etc. with trail guides and history of park and areas. Also heroes of the park and area celebrated. Build sculptures and art amenities into the upgrades parks new elements. History ideas: Gene Heinemann - Wildflower area could recognize his role in resurrection of the space for wildflowers and its development. Waters Park community St. Steven's Church history Summitt Elementary history Milwood Branch Library Adelphi Acres history."

"Expand parking by at least a few spaces Extra picnic tables - concrete maybe? Walking/Fitness trail around main #'s 1, 2, 3, (Like walk over stumps/ do 3 jumping jacks/ touch your toes 5 times? Dog bags and trash cans for them. A tire swing - preschoolers love these."

"I hope that the "improvements" will be of natural beauty and blend into the landscape. I hope that they will have minimal negative impact on the natural environment."

"FINISH THE WALNUT CREEK TRAIL!!!!!!!"

"I don't have kids, but I do love taking my dogs for walks in the park. Anything that improves the park for walking and dogs is great for me."

"A 9 hole disc golf course would get a huge amount of use. There are no courses anywhere near this area."

"I'm hoping the shade structures are not fabric. They don't last and look really bad once they start to wear. Tree planting that will provide additional shade along trails and sidewalks would also be great."

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"Would like the pool shaded like Enfield pool."

"Would prefer no rubber mulch material. Also, we often find some unshaded playground equipment to be too hot most of the summer hours, especially slide and swing material made of colors that absorb light/heat."

"PLEASE put some money into the creek trail. A dirt path would be preferable to the broken pavement down there. It's a dumpy little trail that could be great with a little money. And please put lights in the tunnels under Duval. It's dangerous down there."

"The dinosaurs you can climb on at Robinson Park are a huge hit with our preschoolers."

"...A children's wading pool would be great - shading that would be useful but please do not shade the main pool. Safer crosswalk w/ lights have been needed for years. People often do not stop even when you are IN the crosswalk...."

"Please get rid of dead trees in the middle of the creek. They erode the hill and trails during heavy rains."

"Keep older and single adults in mind."