

We just want it to be a park for **EVERYONE**.

- Austin Parks and Recreation Department Planning Manager Charles Mabry



“We’re encouraging people to voice their concerns.”

Senior Luke Wright



“The students need to be able to have somewhere to practice and play games.”

Junior Simone Maresh



“It’s going to be a slow degradation of Austin culture and it’s going to start with this Mopac extension.”

Senior Caleb Short

Victoria Diaz
Sports Editor
Django Fox
Co-Commentary Editor

us to initiate the master plan and get going on this park,” Mabry said. “As far as the role Pressler plays, that land is basically taken off the books for parkland and we have to take that into consideration.”

During the planning process, the Parks Department is taking many factors into consideration including how people transport to and from the park, including the Pressler Street Extension.

“But as a Parks Department, we need to recognize that area is planned for a road,” Mabry said. “We also need to think about how Pressler is used, and does that help people get to the park or not.”

Austin Pets Alive is a major stakeholder that the City of Austin has to incorporate into the master plan of the park.

“City Council directed the animal adoption center and us [Austin Parks and Recreation] to keep it,” Mabry said. “People are concerned about us moving the central location of APA, many people believe it will lower the adoption rates of dogs and cats.”

Since the Lamar Beach Master Planning started in August, it takes a couple of months to come up with a final plan to present to various boards including City Council. The projected timeline can change since the plan is a roadmap to the future of the park.

“The actual master plan itself is planned to be done in late spring of next year. It will be a book about what we heard from the public and the analysis that a consultant has done,” Mabry said. “They will come up with different concept plans, then they will come up with a final recommendation.”

There are many future goals for the development of Lamar Beach Metropolitan Park.

“Hopefully, it will be a better park. Right now, the trail is great, very popular, downtown pop is booming, population in Austin in general is booming, this is a metric park, but this one is for the city,” Mabry said. “Metric parks are for the whole city. We want to make this park usable for our existing users, but also for a more general public, for existing Austinites and future Austinites. We just want it to be a park for everyone.”

All students, staff, faculty, parents, and the general public are encouraged to go online and take the vision workshop survey to get their voice heard.



LAMAR BEACH

City Council proposes controversial transformation of local landscape

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department alongside the City of Austin, held a workshop in the cafeteria inviting the public to hear about the Lamar Beach Master Plan on October 14. While the Lamar Beach Master Plan is in the developmental stage, feedback from the general public and stakeholders is essential.

“There are a couple of main goals for a master plan, one of those is to provide a map for the future of the park. It’s a planning exercise,” Austin Parks and Recreation Department Planning Manager Charles Mabry said. “We are looking at concepts and what’s going to be included in the park. The second reason why we do master plan is that it’s an opportunity to listen to the public, not only the general public, but people being affected by the park.”

Stakeholders like West Austin Youth Association, Austin Pets Alive!, and Old West Austin Neighborhood Association are affected the most by this project due to their close proximity to the park. The City of Austin and the Parks Department have made agreements in order to gain the rights to their properties.

“It is called the license agreement, we have a whole division that writes contracts for these,” Mabry said. “Part of our mission is to provide recreational activities. It allows them to maintain the fields, programs, and it gives them more control over their programs.”

The Lamar Beach Master Plan has been tied to the Pressler Street Extension as both the Parks Department and the Transportation Department have played significant roles in the planning.

“With Pressler Street, there are a lot of concerns with our stakeholders which includes APA and WAYA. They really reached out to the council members for us to do a master plan for this park. City Council wrote up a resolution, and this is for

65.4

acres of parkland comprise the Lamar Beach property

50

the number of years the Town Lake Animal Center has been at its location

no.

20140612-060

8

sports fields

100%

City of Austin requires that all trees 19” or greater must be replaced

2016

A final master plan is expected to be ready in May of 2016

City Council passed the resolution in June of this year