

Parks and Recreation

Citizen quote:

"Our park space is the heart and soul of our City."

Key Takeaways

- The Comprehensive Plan Strike Force did not engage in a new comprehensive plan for Rollingwood Park because the City had recently produced a Master Plan for the park (the 2018 Park Master Plan). The Strike Force elected to incorporate that Plan into this Comprehensive Plan and takes no position on the Plan's recommendations or conclusions. The 2018 Park Master Plan is attached and included with this chapter.
- The Strike Force did solicit resident input on parks and recreation generally and the results of its survey are summarized in this Chapter.
- The 2018 Park Master Plan recommendations include extending and improving the walking trail and making an accessible connection between the lower and upper park
- Strike Force parks & recreation recommendations include providing additional shade in Rollingwood Park and exploring the possibility of improving old Dellana Lane as a publicly accessible path.

Citizen Input on the Future of Rollingwood Park

If there is one thing that's certain about the residents of Rollingwood, it's that they love the Rollingwood Park. In surveys, residents described Rollingwood Park as "the heart and soul of our City," "a great asset to the community," and "the crown jewel of the neighborhood."

Residents were divided on whether to make significant changes to the park, with some reporting that it is "perfect as is," many others advocating for modest improvements, and some wanting a complete "overhaul" of the park similar to the recent renovations of many public parks in the City of Austin.

Many residents complained about the impact of league sports on park parking and accessibility, with some residents advocating for more open space while others asked for different sports fields to be added. Perhaps the issue that divided residents most was the use of the existing multipurpose field as a dog park when no youth sports are being played. Many residents feel that the existing off-leash dog use area is very important to the community, while others argued that dogs shouldn't play on the same fields as the youth sports league. No consensus emerged on the off-leash dog use issue in our surveys.

With respect to potential improvements, Rollingwood residents very much want additional shade to be provided in the park, including by tree planting. Residents also strongly support improving and expanding existing trails and sidewalks in the park. Residents were split on the idea of studying whether old Dellana Lane could be repurposed into a public trail, but more favored than disfavored the idea.

City of Rollingwood Comprehensive Plan 2022

Recommendations for Parks and Recreation

- Add sources of shade to Rollingwood Park, including through tree planting
- Explore possibility of working with City of Austin and nearby neighbors to convert old Dellana Lane into a safe and publicly assessable hike and bike trail. (Long term: explore possibility of permitting golf cart use on pathway to connect residential areas with commercial corridor.)
- Improve and expand walking paths and sidewalks within Rollingwood Park
- The Strike Force took no position on the dog-park issues or concessions.

2018 Park Master Plan Recommendations

- Extend and improve walking trail and make an accessible connection between the lower and upper park
- Create multipurpose fields that allow for additional sports programming and unstructured play
- Assess and utilize on-street parking on all streets adjacent to the park
- Provide a separate off-leash dog area
- Expand programming opportunities for teenagers, adults, and seniors
- Create overall brand and identity for the park that reflects history of the park and community
- Focus on planting shade trees and maintaining existing canopy