





Brentwood Park Master Plan

September 2011







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State of the Park

Brentwood Park covers 9.26 acres in North Central Austin. It is situated in the Brentwood neighborhood and a few yards from the southern boundary of the Crestview neighborhood.

Why is a plan for Brentwood Park important?

Brentwood Park is one of the central gathering places for Brentwood and Crestview residents. It was established in 1951 in conjunction with the creation of Brentwood Elementary. Through the 1950s and early 1960s, the park and school grounds were improved by the Brentwood Recreation Club, which raised funds for the playground, planted trees, organized activities, and conducted maintenance. Since that time, the Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) has conducted basic maintenance and park improvements; however with budget and staff limits, PARD has not had the resources to conduct many improvements desired by park users. In 2009, Friends of Brentwood Park (FOBP) formed to take on park maintenance and improvement projects that PARD does not have the resources to manage. This plan developed out of the need to understand park users' wishes for park improvements, prioritize those improvements, and outline resources for accomplishing those improvements.

Brentwood Park Goals

1. Provide gathering, recreation, and relaxation facilities for Brentwood and Crestview residents that accommodate all age groups and different types of park users.

2. Re-green the park with native trees and plants to provide shade and wildlife habitat.

3. Renovate existing infrastructure and install desired new infrastructure.

4. Find ways to reduce or mitigate conflicts between different types of park users.

Planning Process

The planning process was organized by Friends of Brentwood Park (FOBP) using guidelines from the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department. The planning process included three stages:

1. A survey was used to gather information on park users (demographics, park use patterns), aspects of the park that users like and don't like, and users' priorities for park improvements. The survey text and all survey data is included in *Appendix A*.
2. Two workshops were held for park users to discuss how proposed infrastructure improvements should be integrated into a long-term plan for the park. Alternative layouts for future park improvements were created. The workshops and maps provided a greater understanding of how desired improvements will likely interact "on the ground" in order to minimize potential conflicts and provided an opportunity to further brainstorm and prioritize improvement ideas.
3. The alternative layout maps or "Brentwood Park Concept Plan Maps" were posted online and at the Crestview shopping center for park users to vote on their preferred plan. The alternative layouts and all feedback from the vote are included in *Appendix B*.

Process Timeline

May 13, 2011 –Survey opened on Surveymonkey. Emails sent to Crestview, Brentwood, and Brentwood Elementary listserves

May 14, 2011 – Paper copies of survey distributed at "We Planted 115 Trees" screening

June 2011 – Survey link and contact information to receive paper surveys included in June 2011 Crestview Newsletter and posted on Crestview Neighborhood Association (CNA) website

June 25 – July 10, 2011 – Stakes and flier posted at Brentwood Park to demarcate proposed pavilion site included survey information.

June 28, 2011 – Survey link and reminder posted to Crestview and Brentwood listserves

July 5-7 – Fliers distributed to Brentwood residents with Brentwood Park survey link and contact information included

July 9, 2011 – Preliminary survey results and paper survey made available at pavilion proposal open house in Brentwood Park

July 12, 2011 – Surveymonkey survey closed. Paper and electronic copies still made available.

July 17, 2011 – Preliminary survey results on display at CNA Ice Cream Social

August 4, 2011 – Updated preliminary survey results posted online. Reminder email about survey sent to Brentwood and Crestview listserves. Email announcement posted to CNA website.

August 6 and August 11, 2011 – Master Planning Workshops held at Genuine Joe's (8/6, 1-2pm) and Brentwood Elementary (8/11, 7-8pm)

August 30, 2011 – Brentwood Park Concept Maps vote launched with new FOBP website (www.friendsofbrentwoodpark.org). Email sent to Crestview and Brentwood listserves. Paper copies of maps, explanation, and contact information posted in the CNA's display case at the Crestview shopping center

September 9, 2011 – Map vote reminder email sent to Crestview and Brentwood listserves

September 16, 2011 – Final map vote reminder email sent to Crestview and Brentwood listserves and period extended to 9/18/11

September 22, 2011 – "map vote closed" note posted to website.



Survey Results

The following section summarizes the major results of the Brentwood Park Survey







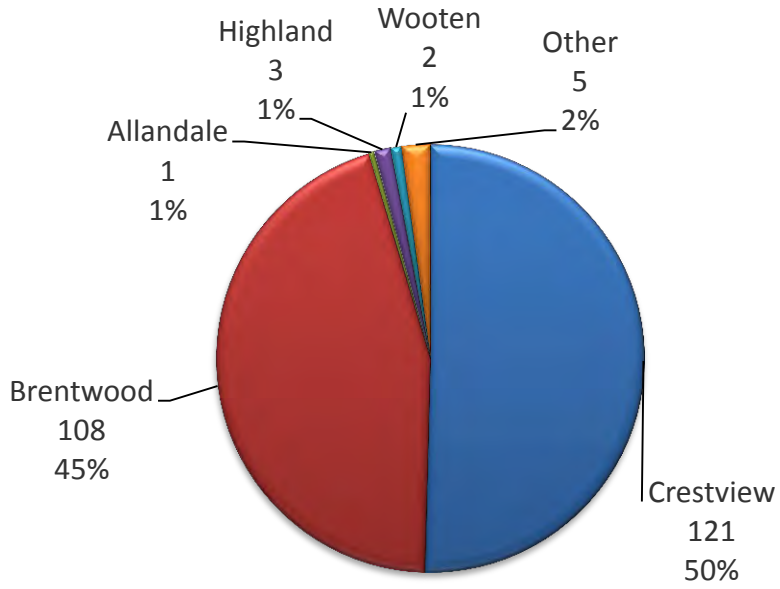


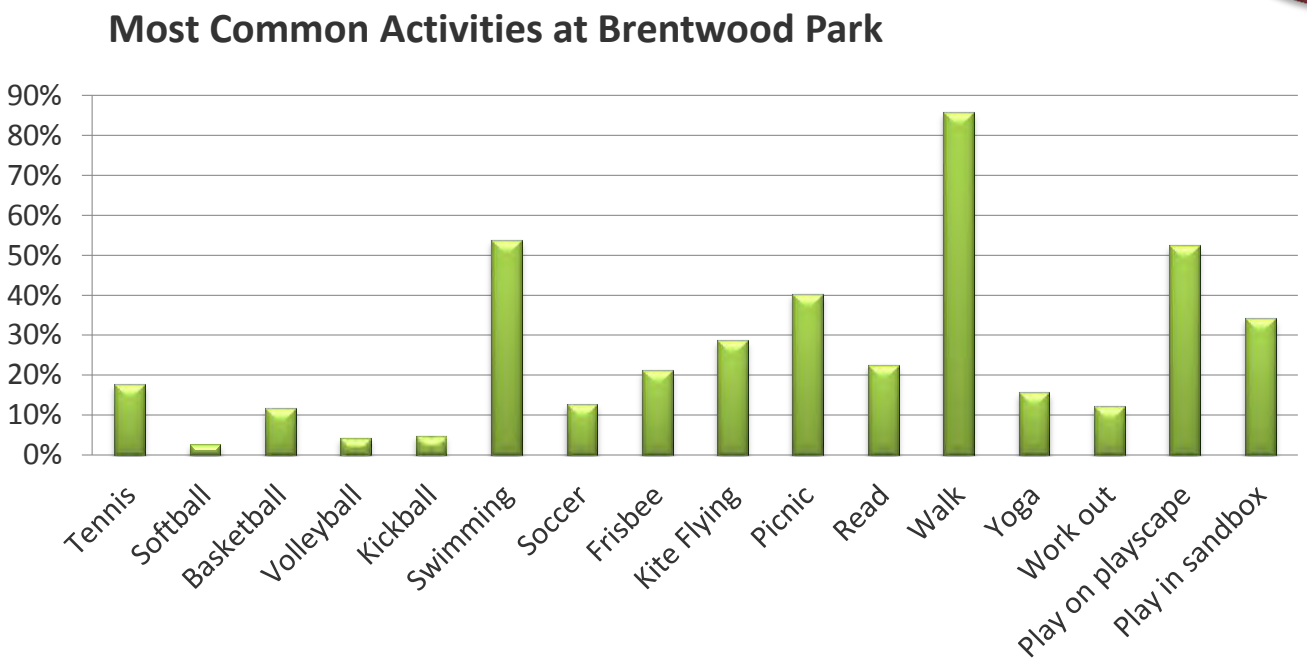


Survey Results (summary pg. 1 of 4)

241 total respondents; ~493 residents represented

(11 households turned in multiple surveys, 4 respondents did not answer question regarding # of household members)





Survey Results (summary pg. 2 of 4)

What people like about Brentwood Park	What people dislike about Brentwood Park
• Wide open space/not too developed/not crowded/Big!	• Too dark at night/feels unsafe at night
• Close to home/convenient/easy to walk to	• Graffiti/vandalism/criminal activity, esp. at night
• Amenities: playscape, pool, sandbox, baseball, basketball, tennis, volleyball, picnic tables, north side path	• Failing grass/lack of tree care/hazardous tree roots/hot, dry Bermuda grass/uneven ground surface and cracks due to lack of moisture and contraction of soil
• Neighborly feel/community gathering place/friendly/sense of ownership by neighbors	• People who appear to be intoxicated/high hanging out in park
• Used by the neighbors for many types of activities/diversity of users/versatility/something for everyone	• Large groups from outside the neighborhood/groups who take over facilities preventing others from using/inconsiderate park users/noise level at night for people who live near park
• The trees and the shade they provide/the new trees and landscaping	• Trash, esp. large amounts left by weekend partiers/too few trashcans/no recycling
• Activities like movies and festivals	• Off leash dogs/Dog poop/irresponsible dog owners
• Great memories	• No off-leash area for dogs
• Great for young families	• Lack of shade/not enough landscaping
• Great for walking and playing with dogs	• Pool area outdated/pool hours/too small
• Proximity to the school	• Water fountains never work
	• Playscape worn out/not enough items for older kids/dirty
	• Rundown baseball field/tennis courts
	• Condition of the bathrooms/no locks on bathroom doors
	• Mulch on the trail
	• Unsupervised teens hanging out/gangs
	• Not enough places to sit
	• Cost of holding events may prevent future activities such as VCCW festival

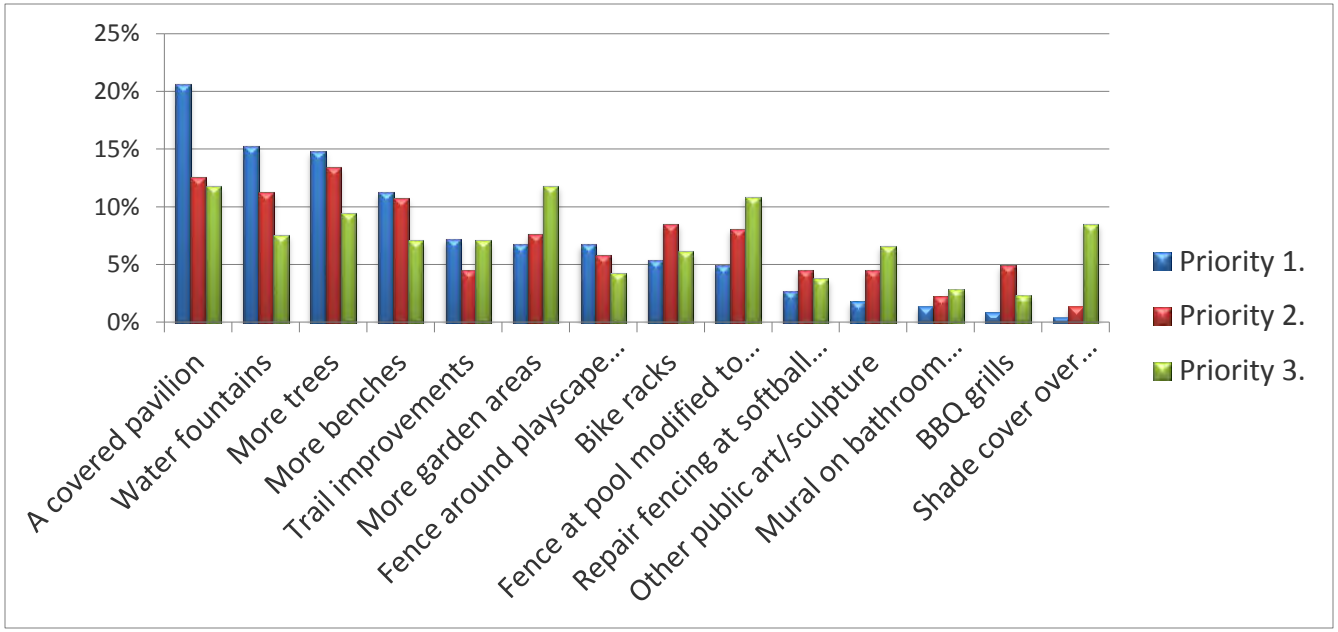
Survey Results

(summary pg. 3 of 4)

Question 5. What types of improvements would you like to see at Brentwood Park?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
1. More benches	33%	56%	11%
2. Water fountains	38%	44%	19%
3. Trail improvements	27%	42%	31%
4. More garden areas	31%	42%	27%
5. More trees	52%	31%	17%
6. A covered pavilion (with tables)	45%	40%	15%
7. BBQ grills	17%	39%	44%
8. Fence around playscape area	19%	26%	55%
9. Bike racks	34%	49%	17%
10. Mural on bathroom exterior	16%	43%	41%
11. Other public art/sculpture	24%	42%	34%
12. Shade cover over basketball court	19%	34%	48%
13. Fence at pool modified to allow bathroom access	39%	38%	22%
14. Repair fencing at softball field	18%	44%	39%

Question 6. Of the above improvements, please list your top three in priority order



Survey Results (summary pg. 4 of 4)

Other suggestions for improvements to the park

Suggestion	# of Respondents
Off leash dog area (*behind tennis court area?*)	30
Additional playscape equipment (*for older kids; like Lake Park @ Mueller; more swings; more sand; jungle gym; more creative items; fenced toddler area*)	8
More picnic tables	6
Running track or path (*e.g. crushed granite path, mileage marked*)	7
Tennis court improvements (*paint; fix cracks; resurface; repair fencing*)	6
Wildlife habitat/xeriscape gardening (*plant markers to highlight native habitat/plants*)	5
Pool improvements (*non-specific; make pool larger; expand fence to enlarge area; more seating, shade, green space*)	5
Splash pad	4
More mutt mitt stations & signage re: scoop-the-poop and leash rules	4
More trash cans (*esp. by tennis courts*)	3
Concrete benches & tables (*chess tables/benches in concrete*)	2
Volleyball court improvements (*better sand & net*)	2
Amphitheater	2
Soccer field (*goals; in area between playscape and softball field?*)	2
Parkwide irrigation system	2
Shade cover for baby pool	2
Replace bermuda grass with native turf grass	1
Separate foursquare area	1
Art kids can climb on	1
Improve water fountains	1
Fix broken basketball goal	1
New restroom facility	1
Community garden	1
Edible landscaping	1
Fix bleachers at softball field	1
More lighting	1
Mini-bike/skate park	1

(The above table summarizes write-in comments. Items in parentheses are specific comments by individuals related to the item)

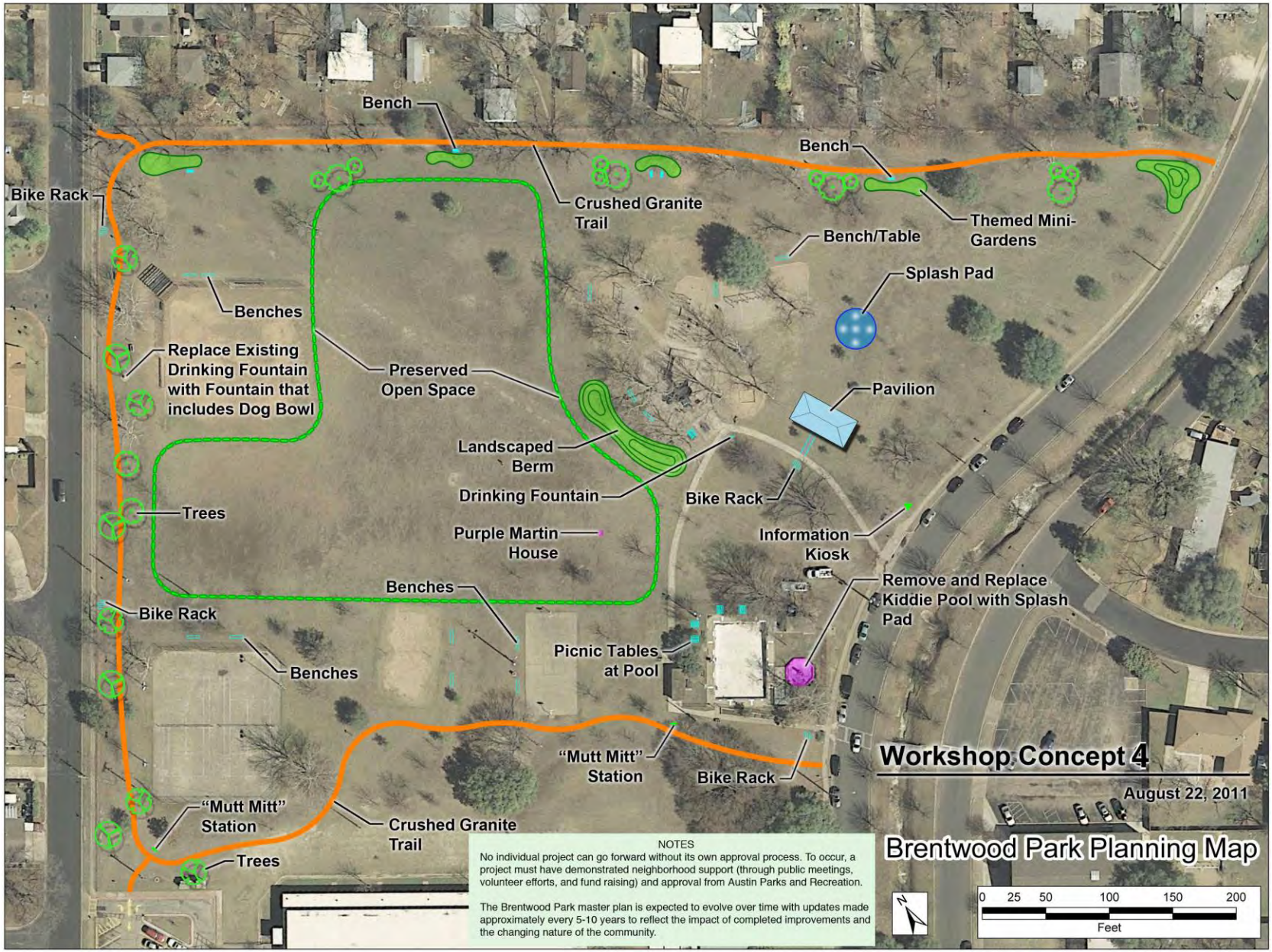


Mapping Results

The following section discusses the Brentwood Park Planning Map and map vote conclusions



Brentwood Park Planning Map



Future Project Guidelines

Map #4 is the winning planning map and will be used as the baseline to guide future projects. However, a number of points were made by map voters that will influence how projects are reviewed and conducted. All voter feedback is included in *Appendix B*.

Summarized Map responses by map feature

Dog park: Has vehement support and opposition. Because of the amount of opposition, a dog park is probably not the solution to dog-human conflicts at the park, but a solution is needed.

Benches: Are desired but need to be located so that they don't infringe on the privacy of houses adjacent to the park.

Splash pad: Mixed support based on location, kiddie pool removal, and understanding of cost/maintenance issues. Would need extensive outreach. Users do NOT want to lose kiddie pool without replacement water feature.

Art: Generally desired as a feature that builds neighborhood unity (esp. Wall of Welcome style participatory art)

Garden: Write-in support for larger northeast garden area over mini/theme gardens.

Trees: Strongly desired but concern for placement in relationship to other uses (e.g. don't conflict with tennis courts, provide shade for playground/splash pad, preserve open space)

Pool area: Need more shade and seating areas inside pool area.

Trail: Strong support for complete loop trail shown on Map 4 (variations shown in *Appendix B)*.

Fenced playground area: Strong support among families with young kids but outreach needed with respect to design, use.

Bike racks: Point made that they should be near use areas rather than at park perimeter.

Brentwood Park Proposed Projects

The following section lists desired projects based on the Brentwood Park Survey and Brentwood Park Planning Map.

No individual project can go forward without its own approval process. To occur, a project must have demonstrated neighborhood support (through public meetings, volunteer efforts, and fund raising) and approval from Austin Parks and Recreation.






Proposed Projects

Projects listed here are those with the greatest demonstrated support to date. The order in which projects will be undertaken is dependent on volunteer interest, funding availability, and PARD approval.

Infrastructure Projects

1. Pavilion (PARD approval received, fundraising underway, construction expected in 2012)
2. Tree planting
3. Trail
4. Splash pad
5. More seating throughout park
6. Pool area improvements
7. Addition of: bike racks, mutt mitts, drinking fountains
8. Garden area creation
9. Playscape improvements (additional equipment, protective dividing fence/berm/planting beds)
10. Art installations

Maintenance Projects

1. Tree/bed mulching, watering
2. Grass/lawn care
3. Infrastructure (playground, pool, tennis courts, basketball court, volleyball court, softball field, restroom)

Additional Projects

1. Dog-human conflict resolution
2. Crime prevention/mitigation

Ongoing Activities and Participants

Volunteer Activities:

1. Watering
2. Planting plants in flower beds
3. It's Our Park Day
4. As-needed workdays
5. Fundraising
6. Project management and outreach
7. Violet Crown TAG Team graffiti removal

City Activities:

1. Watering
2. Infrastructure repair
3. Tree replacement
4. Limited infrastructure installation (e.g. benches, trash cans, etc.)

Going Forward

The Brentwood Park master plan is expected to evolve over time with updates made approximately every 5-10 years to reflect the impact of completed improvements and the changing nature of the community.

Supporters

Brentwood Park improvement efforts are being led by Friends of Brentwood Park. Friends of Brentwood Park was formed as a result of participation in the City of Austin Green Neighbor Challenge program in 2009 in which the Crestview Neighborhood achieved Green Neighborhood status. Founders Emily Wilson and Hedrich Michaelsen signed an Adopt-A-Park agreement with Austin Parks and Recreation and spearheaded the group's first park workday in December 2009. Neighbors from both the Crestview and Brentwood neighborhoods and beyond came out on that chilly morning to spread mulch. The rest is history…

Friends of Brentwood Park does not have a formal membership structure at this time. We meet as needed and all of us wear many hats. We welcome additional volunteers on the Leadership Team. We especially need volunteers with experience in grant writing, project planning, working with city staff, etc. For current information, our website is located at http://friendsofbrentwoodpark.org.

Friends of Brentwood Park sincerely appreciates all the various levels of support and sponsorship from our neighbors and local businesses. We have a very active and engaged community and hope to receive your continued support and appreciation as we move forward with park enhancement projects and beautification efforts. Thanks to everyone!

City Partners
Austin Parks Foundation
Austin Parks and Recreation Department

Business Supporters
Genuine Joe Coffeehouse
Taco Deli
Craig O's Pizza & Pastaria
Charles Mabry, Bury+Partners
Crestview Minimax IGA

Organizational Supporters
Violet Crown Community Works
Brentwood Neighborhood Association
Crestview Neighborhood Association

Pavilion Project Partners
Gossett Jones Homes
Dickey and Son Concrete
T.F. Harper & Associates

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