

### **Who initiated this (acquisition) proposal and when?**

As outlined in the Council approved PARD Long Range Plan 2020-2030, PARD is committed to ensuring that all Austinites have equitable access to quality parks. PARD initiated the acquisitions following a study that identified areas of the city that were park deficient. This area of District 4 was identified as park deficient, which means that residents live more than 1/2 mile walking distance away from a park. PARD also considered access and connectivity goals to trails and greenbelts, and used additional demographic indicators (population density and other socioeconomic data, etc.) to further prioritize land acquisitions.

With the availability of voter approved 2018 Bond funds dedicated to land acquisitions, PARD sent letters to key property owners to gauge their level of interest in selling their properties. PARD will continue to explore land acquisitions along the Little Walnut Creek Greenbelt to complete the overall vision of connecting densely populated areas of the neighborhood and preserving access to the greenbelt.

### **What is the plan for neighborhood stakeholder input?**

Currently, PARD does not have the resources to begin planning and design for this park. When resources become available, PARD will reach out and actively seek neighborhood stakeholder participation in creating a vision for this new pocket park and greenbelt.

As part of the acquisitions though, and in order to secure the properties, PARD plans within the next six months to:

- demolish all homes and structures;
- remove invasive species and raise the canopy of the more valuable trees to increase visibility throughout the property from the street;
- place boulders to discourage driving on the property; and
- install park signage.

Furthermore, PARD expects to complete construction in early fall at the Georgian Acres Neighborhood Park and start the first phase development (soccer fields) at Brownie Neighborhood Park. The second phase of development at Brownie Park includes a playscape and a picnic pavilion. Both of these parks are in your neighborhood, and we hope that activation will have a direct positive impact on the health and safety of nearby residents.

### **What is the process for naming the park, and how can stakeholders influence the selection?**

Please know that it is PARD's standard practice to not proceed with naming for a park before a concept plan is completed and funding is secured to implement the first phase of development. At that time, PARD will follow the process outlined by Council in the 20160324-021 Ordinance that explicitly calls for stakeholder input and support.

### **What input can we the neighborhood have on design and how does that process to include us work? For example, one building to be razed has really great rock cladding, which is now part of the history of that location. We'd like to explore if there is a way that rock can be preserved during demo and re-used as a park feature in some way.**

Once PARD has the resources for planning and design of the park, PARD will implement a proactive community engagement process. The neighborhood will have the opportunity to provide ideas, view alternative designs and communicate preferences and priorities through a variety of platforms, and will effectively guide the design of the park.

With regard to the rock: please know that prior to any demolition, PARD is required to test for lead and asbestos, and complete any required remediation. Since you brought the rock to our attention, we will try to preserve it, provided that we can do it safely and without exposing anyone to hazardous material.

### **Most important of all, how will effective safety strategies, primarily crime prevention (such as crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) be incorporated into the park's development?**

PARD planners and landscape architects are familiar with crime prevention techniques through environmental design. These practices have served the park system well in other parts of the city where crime prevention was a high priority. PARD looks forward to learning more about the neighborhood concerns and values during the stakeholder input process. In the short term, PARD will lift the tree canopy to improve visibility and will install boulders in an effort to prevent unlawful activity.