

**Community Meeting Regarding Natural Area Parks Amenities in West Killeen  
August 23, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

**Councilmembers:**

Michael Boyd, Councilmember District #4  
Riakos Adams, Councilmember At Large

**City Staff:**

Crystal Kazakos, Park Planner  
Jarrod Provost, Interim Executive Director of Parks and Recreation  
Kent Cagle, City Manager

**Community Members:**

Thomas Salazar  
Asia Salazar  
Dr. Camron Cochran  
Betty Goodnight  
Kitty Goodnight Ervi  
Amanda Templon  
Maria V. Quinones

Todd Lutz  
Portia Moses  
Kole Moses  
Craig White  
Colton Ferris  
Delma Cortes-Quinones  
Candice Bailey

**Summary Discussion**

- A. Presentation on two potential park areas Bunny Trail Passive Recreation Park & West Killeen Natural Area & Trail by Crystal Kazakos (See Attachment)
- B. Discussion opened to Community. Citizen asked if Parks & Recreation plans to put a water connection in the park for restrooms, etc. Crystal Kazakos informed them the city plans to put a water connection in the park.
- C. Discussion opened to Community. Citizen asked what the current stage of the plan is. Crystal Kazakos responded these park projects are in the very beginning stages of planning. Currently Parks & Recreation is in the process of getting feedback from the community. This will give us a better idea of cost and where go from there.
- D. Discussion opened to Community. Citizen stated they are against the idea of having parks at these locations because it will cause a lot of traffic. They are concerned it will be like Yowell Ranch where it is very congested. They are concerned with teenagers firing weapons, smoking marijuana, camping, and starting fires. They said the community had put a fire out. Citizen would like to know about the survey results and unaware of other community members wanting a park. They stated that the residents asked for more police presence and speed bumps because speeding was an issue. They stated that the construction timeline of Bunny Trail is a year long and asked why crews are not working day and night to finish the construction faster. Citizen brought up a separate property issue where Micheal Boyd was the real estate agent. Micheal Boyd responded to the citizen to remind him the forum is designated for park business and issues related to parks. Citizen asked how do you make a park; and if the city has to buy the land. Micheal Boyd responded that land for these parks was not bought but it was donated.
- E. Discussion opened to Community. Citizen asked about the status of the parkland that was recently donated by the Stonetree Golf Course. Micheal Boyd stated that he believes that currently there no plans for that property in question.
- F. Discussion opened to Community. Citizen asked how parking issues in neighborhoods would be mitigated and prevent kids and adults from doing anything dangerous & illegal in the park. Citizen stated they used to call the cops but now they don't come anymore. Micheal Boyd stated the city has recently acquired the properties, so nothing has in implemented regarding for safety just yet and that process must start soon.
- G. Discussion opened to Community. Citizen is concerned establishing more parks is going to bring more kids and problems to the area. Micheal Boyd responded having an activated park is going to help to mitigate problems by having more of a police presence.
- H. Discussion opened to Community. Citizen brought up the issue of drivers speeding in the neighborhood. Micheal Boyd responded that the city is working on that.

- I. Discussion opened to Community. Citizen stated they do not want a park. Micheal Boyd stated 40,000 people live in West Killeen and that parks are necessary quality of life enhancements that are necessary for the city and people have been asking for parks in the area for some time.
- J. Discussion opened to Community. Citizen stated the bicycle lane needs to be repainted and the that cars are not respecting the bicycle lane and should require cones or markings to keep traffic out of the bike lane. Additionally, the detention ponds off of Bunny Trail should be maintained more often. Citizen would rather taxpayer dollars go to maintenance the sidewalks. Micheal Boyd responded that the city is aware of the issues at the detention pond.
- K. Discussion opened to Community. Citizen asked if establishing a park was done for a political gain and if Michael Boyd received any financial kickbacks. Michael Boyd stated the tract of land was donated.
- L. Discussion opened to Community. Citizen stated that they have wanted a park and why didn't the city build a park when the area was being developed. Micheal Boyd responded that years ago when the area was built out, there was no requirement to build a park. Since then, the city has worked with developers who have donated land to build parks and work with what is currently available. The goal of the citizen forum is to get citizen feedback in order to determine how we make the most effective parks.
- M. Discussion opened to Community. Citizen asked how much money does the city have allocated for the parks. And if the city going to pay for the upkeep of trails. Mr. Boyd stated the city has about \$4 million that can be used on multiple park projects however Council understands there is a need for parks in District 4 and will try to establish parks there first but ultimately Council will be determining where that money goes.
- N. Discussion opened to Community. Citizen stated what they wanted to see, in both parks, areas dedicated to teenagers. Micheal Boyd responded he agrees and understood.
- O. Staff invites community members to look a site diagrams

**Additional One-on-One Comments about the parks from Community Members;  
Citizens would like:**

- community garden
- dog park
- playground for kids
- basketball court
- opportunity for outdoor education activities & to learn about different outdoor skills
- observation deck like Mother Neff State Park
- mountain bike trail
- butterfly garden or monarch way station
- would like to see the results of the survey
- area for yoga
- murals
- higher quality drinking fountains and drinking fountains that are shaded
- different style of light fixtures that look nicer than the existing light fixtures a Fort Cavazos Regional trail
- speed bumps
- fewer unnecessary guardrails, railings if possible
- more police presence and security cameras
- park with basketball courts, sports field, and activities for teenagers for neighborhoods near Clear Creek Road to give teenagers more activities and things to do
- pickleball court
- to know what will be done with the flood plain area at a different location near Reeces Creek Road and Goodnight Ranch
- a park walking distance to where they live and activities for children of all ages
- to do a potential project for Girl Scouts Gold Awards at these parks

NOTE: Deadline for Survey is August 30<sup>th</sup> & Survey results will be available to share after the deadline.