

\$(custom1) = Zilker Park

Survey Question Date Entered Survey Record Number Open Ended Text Statement

Please select the county which you reside.

Identify the reasons you choose \$(custom1) for you visit? Select 1 or more...

10/9/2009	5128616	Not crowded with other dogs
10/12/2009	5187748	There is NO OTHER space large enough to allow them to run
10/13/2009	5229652	Did not know other dog parks
10/16/2009	5345702	only place in south austin
10/20/2009	5443064	beautiful when open...
10/21/2009	5458486	it's a beautiful field and we keep it CLEAN! We pick up!
10/26/2009	5576391	move the ACL Fest
10/26/2009	5585545	love the freedom and space out there
10/29/2009	5689088	that beautiful new grass
11/2/2009	5759076	Kayak accessibility
11/17/2009	6158077	Typically dog owners are more responsible, less obnoxious dog owners who allow their dogs to haul at our dogs and scare them and then just say, "he's friendly" when a fight almost ensued.
11/19/2009	6239557	my dog has room to run and explore

How do you stay informed or follow current information on \$(custom1)? Select all that apply.

10/11/2009	5181699	Word on the Street
10/14/2009	5282346	neighborhood list serv
10/15/2009	5307665	Neighborhood list serves and friends
10/21/2009	5458486	emails from other dog owners
10/26/2009	5576391	interact with onsite P & R employees
10/26/2009	5585545	newspaper/friends

In the transition from parking to entering \$(custom1) you stated some "hazards" are present. List those hazards.

10/16/2009	5345702	fast drivers
11/2/2009	5759236	Cars entering that don't slow down that much
11/10/2009	5946770	running area close to car area... but nothing you could do about it.
11/10/2009	5968417	When I park on the other side of the street from the great lawn me and my dog have to cross teh street and sometimes I only feel comfortable doing that while carrying my dog so she doesn't get run over.
11/17/2009	6159205	

You answered "Yes" \$(custom1) is shared with other park patrons. Check all that apply. Select 1 or more...

10/9/2009	5128616	Events
10/15/2009	5307665	Events - Blues on the Green, etc. where dogs attend
10/26/2009	5576391	MOVE THE ACL FEST!!!
10/26/2009	5585545	just hanging out
11/16/2009	6132699	acl, trail of lights

Please share with us any ideas you have that can help improve the City of Austin's Off-Leash Areas.

10/8/2009	5115061	
10/9/2009	5126785	I think pet owners need to be made aware that if we want our parks to be dog-friendly, EVERYONE needs to pick up after their dogs. It amazes me how many people refuse to do this.
10/9/2009	5128616	
10/9/2009	5135856	
10/11/2009	5166766	I'm not really sure where the OLA is located at Zilker Park. I walk there from my home to enjoy the expansiveness of the park. I appreciate the freedom the Austin PARD allows its residence and I hope the PARD will continue doing a good job of keeping the parks a healthy, living space for all beings to enjoy. I moved here from Dallas, TX and its park system is not welcomed to its residence, i.e. gang activity, illicit sexual activities, littered & not well kept, etc...

10/11/2009	5181699	
10/12/2009	5187748	Most dog owners and dogs that I have observed are well behaved and in control. Zilker (the soccer fields) is the only place other than the hike and bike trail I would take my dogs. The small dog parks around town may serve a function, but they are so overrun and poorly maintained I would not seek them as a destination. (Norwood, and the small place along Shoal Creek south of 29th).
		The only improvement to Zilker I can think of would be a single large fenced area size of a football field off to one side. Do not concentrate the dogs in one area.
10/13/2009	5217688	
10/13/2009	5226261	the poop bag stations are the most effective way (in my view) to get folks to pick up after their dogs. and of course its all about education, getting the word out. But if there are a number of the stations about, that would be very helpful Keep and maintain or create more off-leash areas
10/13/2009	5229652	
10/14/2009	5282346	
10/15/2009	5307665	My only complaints have to do with the amount of time the park has been closed this year and with the volume of poop left unscooped in the park and around Town Lake Trail. I often pick up after other dogs, but I can't keep up. If there are cops around, I would like to see folks FINED for not picking up after their dog. Town Lake trail was like a dog sewer early this summer! Add Slaughter Creek Metro park to the list
10/16/2009	5345702	
10/20/2009	5443064	
10/21/2009	5456336	
10/21/2009	5458486	I think we need to have a sustained educational program as to WHY it is important to pick up pet waste. It's not just because it's a mess, it's because of environmental reasons as well. Having bag stations and trash containers helps a lot as well. Why not ticket those who do not pick up? Word would get around fast that tickets are being issued and that would help. If we can get people to quit smoking we can change people's habits when it comes to keeping our parks clean and that applies to parent with small kids, too! (i.e. diapers and picnic trash). Thanks for letting us voice our concerns.
10/22/2009	5481219	
10/23/2009	5514006	create more! i'm so grateful for all of the wonderful off-leash parks in austin and love the new scoop the poop campaign as the dog waste that is left (not picked up by owners) is the one negative at the parks. thanks austin!
10/26/2009	5576391	MOVE THE ACL FEST!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
10/26/2009	5585545	please please open up zilker park again. I have been missing it for close to a year now. My dog loves it and so do I. It is a social gathering group. I love the fact hat people can play volleyball. fly kites, airplanes. We all coexist. I welcome the soccer players at night. I have missed them. I think you need to reopen the park. I sincerely believe that our small pitter patter of walking on the grass, would ruin it. The biking should be prohibited because there is not enough space for hiking, biking and the dogs. The bikers ride in dangerous speed with put in risk the people at the park. The many of the bikers are rude and some time aggressive with the other people that are in front of them.
10/26/2009	5590674	There needs to be some sort of fencing / protection running alongside barton Springs road to protect against dogs off leash running into traffic and causing accidents or death to dogs. Other than that, a few more dog water drinking fountains would be great. Otherwise, we just love having the space and respect others in the park and hope that all users of the park respect that everyone has a right to use the park - we are ALL lucky to have such a wonderful park
10/27/2009	5613565	
10/27/2009	5633023	water, water, water!!! drinking water for the dogs whenever possible. we humans can tough it out, but the dogs need all the help they can get. we always bring our own water, but sometimes run out or need to share!
10/28/2009	5654903	Wish Zilker could be open more during the year.
10/29/2009	5689088	All good.
10/31/2009	5724674	It is likely unrealistic except as a public service - but a real problem that I've seen here is that there are dog owners who are either oblivious to or don't understand that they own an aggressive dog. They are repeat offenders that I observe at Town Lake, whose dog attacks other dogs. A possible solution - maybe someone could contact professional trainers in the community and see if they would volunteer some time each week to observe dogs and their owners and provide some assistance or guidance in maintaining control of their dog? If not as a volunteer then possibly on a reduced fee basis. If such a program were initiated I would ask that they be there during the early morning hours when the park is busy, then schedule some for mid-day during lunch hours and maybe someone in the evenings after work. I don't know how many professional trainers are in the area but even if this happened on Saturdays and one other day of the week it would be an opportunity to bring home the responsibility that each of us as dog owners has to make the park experience a good one - for all dogs and their owners.

I'm guessing that there are enough trainers in the area that no trainer would need to participate in this kind of program more than 2 days a month and it would be an opportunity to even offer small classes in pet control and possibly gain new business opportunities for themselves.

Just an idea.

11/1/2009 [5741193](#)
11/2/2009 [5759236](#)
11/2/2009 [5775236](#)
11/2/2009 [5779024](#)

Since scoopin' poop is critically important to maintaining public health and keeping dog parks open, and poop in the park is such a problem, despite many responsible owners / dog park users who DO scoop the poop, I'd love to see volunteers or city employees assigned to cleaning up the park poop on a regular basis. (Whew! Long sentence...) City employees care for parks all over the city, picking up trash, etc. Poop is going to keep happening. There are LOTS of very responsible owners / dog walkers out there. I see them every day! But if poop threatens the life of a park, then stronger measures should be taken to maintain the cleanliness of the park and water systems. I pick up poop every day, sometimes other dog's poop, too. ;) It's not that big of a deal.

11/3/2009 [5804580](#)
11/10/2009 [5946770](#)
11/10/2009 [5968417](#)

I really think that all the park areas in the entire city including the off leash dog parks need more night time lighting. I don't feel safe running the trails at night (I usually run around 1 in the morning) or taking my dog to a park after dark when there could be coyotes or other predators running about. Some sustainable green lighting or even street lamps would be very much appreciated.

11/12/2009 [6034874](#)
11/13/2009 [6051130](#)
11/13/2009 [6052111](#)
11/13/2009 [6059417](#)
11/13/2009 [6059627](#)
11/14/2009 [6069956](#)

Stronger penalties for people who do not pick up their pet's poop!! I know it is hard to catch them, but it bugs me!!

Put up some more lights and put in a mini-floating dock so the area around congress bridge is not such an accident prone lane.

11/16/2009 [6132699](#)
11/17/2009 [6158077](#)

Zilker is an excellent OLA, and we love to visit. The long closures for events are disappointing, and not allowing off-leash on the Barton Springs side (at least a designated area) during such closures makes these closures more of a problem.

Honestly, I have much more issue with the on-leash areas, as I feel these areas are taken over by off-leash dog owners as well. As someone with a somewhat dog-aggressive dog, it is frustrating to try and allow our leashed dogs to have fun and enjoy the parks in our designated area when others clearly have no interest in complying to the rules for leashing, perhaps because no one enforces them. Not all of us are lucky enough to have such friendly animals, but they are still wonderful animals who deserve to enjoy a leashed park as well.

11/17/2009 [6159205](#)
11/18/2009 [6174263](#)
11/19/2009 [6231276](#)
11/19/2009 [6239557](#)

all dogs and their owners love a large grassy area with drinking water, clean water for the dogs to swim and cool off in and shade during the summer where they don't have to worry about being run over by cars or bicycles. I think Zilker park is perfect, Auditorium shores needs better grass, otherwise I'm pleased with my dog parks.