

Goals for the Park

The project should provide a sense of environmental thoughtfulness.

Improve water quality, maximize infiltration, and control the flow rates of water moving across the site.
 Plant material should create meaningful habitat for insects and song birds.
 The grading of the site should involve limited removal of soil from the site.
 Plants should provide seasonal interest and materials not commonly found in residential landscapes.

The design should relate to the land.

Park uses should compliment adjacent land uses.
 The layout should respond to proposed land plan geometry and patterns.
 Portions of the park should reflect on the historic patterns of use on the site.

Human comfort should be a design priority.

Lighting across the site should be adequate for intended evening uses.
 Restrooms or other facilities should maximize user safety and sense of comfort.
 Efforts to reduce heat island effect and increase shade should be emphasized in the design.
 Areas intended for children should have a sensible level of enclosure and shade.

The park should be a distinct community hub.

The park should maximize flexibility.
 The design should create points of interaction for locals and visitors.
 The design should plan for the use and needs of users with dogs.
 The design should create areas for small scale/intimate interaction as well as groups and active uses.
 The park should include programming attractive to a wide range of age groups.
 The appearance of the park should be distinct, yet cohesive with other parks within Mueller.

Specific performance measures and champion responsible.

Amount of regionally sourced materials; design; project landscape architect
 Total impervious coverage; design; project landscape architect
 Quantity of stormwater retained; design; civil engineer
 Percent of tree canopy; design; project landscape architect
 Area of park that is shaded; design; project landscape architect
 Average illuminance for landscape lighting; design; project landscape architect
 Total event capacity; maintenance; landscape architect and client
 Percent park occupied by 1) children 2) adults 3) teenagers and 4) the elderly; maintenance; client

Park Tour Speakers

Claire Hempel, PLA, AICP CUD, SITES AP, LEED® Green Associate™

Mary Elizabeth Branch Park



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|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| A. Sand Volleyball Courts | G. Rain Gardens | M. Future Market Pavilion |
| B. Palo Verde Pathway and Garden Walk | H. Interactive Water Feature | N. Game Area |
| C. Fitness Station | I. Restroom/ Pump Room | O. Dog Run |
| D. Playground | J. Prospect Mound | P. Texas Mutual Insurance Company, 4-Star AE Green Building |
| E. Picnic Tables | K. Shared Use Path | |
| F. Main Lawn | L. South Court Grove | |



Design Team

Owner/ Developer - Catellus Development Corporation
 Landscape Architect - Design Workshop + Steven Spears
 SITES Consultant - Design Workshop
 Civil - Stantec
 MEP - Encotech
 Architect - Lawrence Group

Structural - Architectural Engineers Collaborative
 Irrigation - JAS Irrigation Design
 Water Feature - Water Design
 Accessibility - Altura Solutions
 Cost Estimating - Vermeulens
 Playground - Recreation Environments Collaborative

Sustainable Process

SITES is used by landscape architects, designers, engineers, planners, ecologists, architects, developers, policy-makers and others to align land development and management with innovative sustainable design.



Site Context

SITES requires careful planning and protection of existing natural features, floodplains, wetlands, and wildlife habitats. These features provide essential ecosystem functions for wildlife and the surrounding community.



Pre-Design Assessment + Planning

A comprehensive assessment of physical, biological, and cultural conditions was conducted by a team of experts in natural systems, design, construction, and maintenance, in addition to representatives of the community.



Site Design - Water

The park is designed to capture rainwater, decrease potable water usage, and protect water quality. Rain gardens harvest rainfall from the entire site and plants clean the water before it goes into the City system. All irrigation uses reclaimed, non-potable purple pipe water from the City of Austin. Custom water features mimic natural flows of water – rainfall, to rain flow, to drain pool. Originating at a pop jet area representing rainfall, a splash pad area evokes Hill Country waterscapes with water jumping out of limestone block set amidst native plantings.



Site Design - Soil

A Soil Management Plan fosters robust plants. Healthy soils filter pollutants and prevent erosion and flooding. Native plants reduce irrigation needs, increase the wildlife habitat, promote identity, and lower maintenance costs.



Site Design - Materials Selection

The selection and use of materials for Branch Park decreased the amount of materials sent to landfills, preserved natural resources, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and supported the sustainable manufacturing of building products.



Site Design - Human Health + Well -Being

Branch Park promotes physical activity, restorative experiences, and social interaction. Equity is addressed in many design choices - such as inclusive restrooms and hours/ amenities that accommodate people of all-ages and abilities.



Construction

Contractors were educated about sustainability goals set in the design process. Proper actions to protect air quality through low-emitting equipment, a net-zero waste site, and strategies for soil restoration helped to protect receiving waters from polluted runoff and sedimentation during construction.



Operations + Maintenance

Strategies are in place for caring for the health of soils and plants, and reducing waste. Local/ recycled replacement materials are identified. Energy-efficient fixtures, operations and practices such as cleaning



Education + Performance Monitoring

The park educates the public about sustainable practices. Community partners are working together to monitor, document, and report the performance of the site in order to influence and improve the body of knowledge about park sustainability.



Innovation + Exemplary Performance

Ecosystem services have been restored to 100 percent of this previously damaged site.