



Historical Resources Survey Report

Capital Express Central – Intensive-level Survey:

Palm Park, 200 North Interstate Highway (I-) 35

Project Name: I-35 Capital Express Central Project

Project Limits: U.S. Highway (US) 290 East to US 290 West/State Highway (SH) 71

District(s): Austin

County(s): Travis

CSJ Number(s): 0015-13-388

Principal Investigators: Rick Mitchell and Emily Pettis, Mead & Hunt, Inc.

Report Completion Date: September 2022

This historical resources survey report is produced for the purposes of meeting requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Antiquities Code of Texas, and other cultural resource legislation related to environmental clearance as applicable.

Abstract

The proposed Interstate Highway (I-) 35 Capital Express Central Project is to improve an approximately 8-mile segment of I-35 from U.S. Highway (US) 290 East to US 290 West/State Highway 71. The project Area of Potential Effects includes a portion of Sir Swante Palm Neighborhood Park (Palm Park), which was found potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as part of the 2016 Meridian Highway Survey Report by Hardy-Heck-Moore, Inc. Reconnaissance-level investigations for the current project also identified Palm Park for its potential eligibility and concluded that intensive-level work would be required to provide a definitive NRHP evaluation for Palm Park. A description of the overall project area and detailed survey results are included in the reconnaissance *Historic Resources Survey Report* (HRSR).

On behalf of the Texas Department of Transportation Environmental Affairs Division, Mead & Hunt, Inc. performed an intensive survey in January 2022 to provide a definitive evaluation of NRHP eligibility for Palm Park. The intensive survey included extensive research, fieldwork, and comparative analysis.

Based on the findings of the intensive survey, Palm Park is recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage and Entertainment/Recreation. Based on the project designs as shown on August 2022 schematics and design files, both build alternatives (Alternative 2 and Modified Alternative 3) would have no adverse effect to the NRHP-eligible Palm Park.

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Project Identification

- **Report Completion Date:** 09/30/2022
- **Date(s) of Fieldwork:** 01/14/2022
- **Survey Type:** ☐ Windshield ☐ Reconnaissance ☒ Intensive
- **Report Version:** ☐ Draft ☒ Final
- **Regulatory Jurisdiction:** ☒ Federal ☐ State
- **TxDOT Contract Number:** WA57008SH004
- **District or Districts:** Austin
- **County or Counties:** Travis
- **Highway or Facility:** Interstate Highway (I-) 35
- **Project Limits:**
 - **From:** U.S. Highway (US) 290 East
 - **To:** US 290 West/State Highway (SH) 71
- **Main CSJ Number** 0015-13-388
- **Report Author(s):** Angela Hronek and Rick Mitchell; Mead & Hunt, Inc. (Mead & Hunt)
- **Principal Investigators:** Rick Mitchell and Emily Pettis, Mead & Hunt
- **List of Preparers:** Rick Mitchell – Principal Investigator, directed fieldwork and research activities, performed quality control for intensive survey products, co-authored intensive survey report, reviewed National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluations, prepared and reviewed effect recommendations.

Emily Pettis – Principal Investigator, performed quality control for intensive survey products, reviewed NRHP evaluations and effect recommendations.

Angela Hronek – primary author of intensive survey report, led intensive-level research.

Lauren Kelly – participated in fieldwork and research and assisted in intensive survey report preparation.

Mackenzie Machuga – participated in fieldwork.

Caroline Bruchman – prepared field survey maps, survey report maps, and GIS deliverables.

Area of Potential Effects (APE)

- ☐ Existing ROW
- ☐ 150' from Proposed ROW and Easements
- ☐ 300' from Proposed ROW and Easements
- ☒ Custom: Sir Swante Palm Neighborhood Park (Palm Park), 200 North I-35, Travis Central Appraisal District (TCAD) parcel 191622, part of parcel 191609, and the vacated Sabine Street right-of-way (ROW) between Waller Creek and TCAD parcel 191622. (Note: The APE for the I-35 Capital Express Central Project reconnaissance HRSR extends 150 feet beyond the project's Environmental Study Area.)

- **Historic-Age Survey Cut-Off Date:** 1980
- **Study Area** For the I-35 Capital Express Central Project as a whole, the historic resources study area extends 1,300 feet beyond proposed new ROW and easements. Results of the overall study area analysis are available in the project's Historic Resources Research Design and reconnaissance-level Historic Resources Survey Report (HRSR).

For purposes of this intensive survey, the historic resources study area is limited to the two property parcels and vacated public street ROW that comprise Palm Park.

Section 106 Consulting Parties

- **Public Involvement Outreach Efforts:**

The proposed project includes ongoing focused Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (Section 106) public involvement outreach, as well as incorporation of historic resources as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) public involvement process. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) held a virtual Section 106 consulting parties meeting on October 6, 2021, to provide an overview of the project, cultural resources management as part of TxDOT's project development process, consulting party opportunities and roles in the Section 106 process, and upcoming historic resources survey tasks and schedule. TxDOT posted the draft I-35 Capital Express Central reconnaissance-level HRSR and seven intensive-level HRSRs on the project website for public access on May 24, 2022. A Section 106 consulting party meeting was held on June 10, 2022, to gather comments and questions. TxDOT will involve consulting parties throughout the Section 106 process, including a meeting to discuss project impacts and potential mitigation activities. Additional information on Section 106-focused public

involvement efforts for the I-35 Capital Express Central Project is included in the reconnaissance-level HRSR.

▪ **Identification of Section 106 Consulting Parties:**

TxDOT identified 28 potential consulting parties for the I-35 Capital Express Central Project to date. Of the consulting parties, the following groups are most likely to have interest in Palm Park based on geographic location and/or historical associations:

- Texas Historical Commission
- Travis County Historical Commission
- Preservation Austin
- City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission/Historic Preservation Office
- City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARC), Historic Preservation and Tourism
- Rainey Neighborhood Association
- Willow-Spence Historic District/East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Contact Team
- Waterloo Greenway Conservancy

The City of Austin PARC participated in the October 6, 2021, consulting parties meeting and provided information on Palm Park and other properties. TxDOT contacted the Waterloo Greenway Conservancy to gather information on its initiative to document the cultural heritage of the Lower Waller Creek neighborhood; however, TxDOT had not received any information at the time of draft HRSR preparation.

▪ **Section 106 Review Efforts:**

As noted above, TxDOT held a Section 106 consulting party meeting on October 6, 2021, to provide an overview of the project, cultural resources management as part of TxDOT's project development process, consulting party opportunities and roles in the Section 106 process, and upcoming historic resources survey tasks and schedule. On December 6, 2021, TxDOT updated consulting parties on the in-progress cultural resources investigations via email. TxDOT provided another update and outlined upcoming steps in the Section 106 process via email on February 2, 2022. In this email, TxDOT reminded consulting parties of the opportunity to provide input on potentially historic resources in the project APE. Mead & Hunt contacted several consulting parties to request additional information in the course of developing the draft HRSR. These included:

- City of Austin Historic Landmark Commission/Historic Preservation Office
- City of Austin PARC, Historic Preservation and Tourism
- Preservation Austin
- Texas Historical Commission

TxDOT initiated formal review of the draft I-35 Capital Express Central reconnaissance-level HRSR and seven intensive-level HRSRs on May 24, 2022. The HRSRs were posted to the project website. Consulting parties were notified and invited to send comments and

questions via email to the TxDOT project historian. A Section 106 consulting party meeting was held on June 10, 2022, to gather comments and questions. Section 106 consulting parties were also invited to request individual meetings with the TxDOT project historian if desired.

Information provided to date by the consulting parties pertains to other resources and neighborhoods in the I-35 Capital Express Central Project area and did not include information related to Palm Park.

TxDOT will continue to involve consulting parties throughout the Section 106 process. A second meeting to discuss potential mitigation activities will be held at a date to be determined during the fall of 2022. Results of this meeting, including additional consulting party comments related to Palm Park, will be included in the final I-35 Capital Express Central reconnaissance-level HRSR.

▪ **Summary of Consulting Parties Comments:**

There have been no consulting party comments regarding Palm Park to date.

Stakeholders

▪ **Stakeholder Outreach Efforts:**

In addition to the Section 106 consulting parties, anticipated project stakeholders may include property owners, residents, and business owners in and near the project APE; neighborhood associations and planning contact teams; other neighborhood and community groups; and elected officials.

Regarding potential stakeholders for Palm Park, TxDOT has identified and contacted the City of Austin PARD, the Waterloo Greenway Conservancy, and the Rainey Neighborhood Association as part of Section 106 outreach, as described above. The reconnaissance-level HRSR provides additional information on stakeholder outreach for the overall I-35 Capital Express Central Project.

▪ **Identification of Stakeholder Parties:**

- City of Austin PARD, Historic Preservation and Tourism – property owner/facility manager.
- Waterloo Greenway Conservancy – advocacy group for Lower Waller Creek area.
- Rainey Neighborhood Association – designated neighborhood group for area south of Palm Park.

▪ **Summary of Stakeholder Comments:**

The City of Austin PARD participated in the October 6, 2021, Section 106 consulting parties meeting and provided information on Palm Park and other properties.

Project Setting/Study Area

■ Study Area

The overall historic resources study area for the I-35 Capital Express Central Project extends 1,300 feet beyond maximum proposed ROW. For the purposes of this intensive survey, the study area is confined to the boundaries of Palm Park as shown on the online interactive map published by the City of Austin PARD. It comprises: TCAD parcel 191622, containing 2 acres; part of TCAD parcel 191609, which overall contains 0.62 acres; as well as the vacated former Sabine Street ROW between Waller Creek and parcel 191622.

■ Previously Evaluated Historic Resources

Palm Park was recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C as part of the 2016 Meridian Highway Survey Report by Hardy-Heck-Moore, Inc. (HHM, Inc.) (property TV-1189).

■ Previously Designated Historic Properties

The adjacent parcel containing the associated Palm School was changed to general retail-historic zoning and designated as a historic landmark by Austin City Council in 1980 (Ordinance NO. 800717-U). The landmark designation does not extend to Palm Park.

■ Previously Designated Historic Districts

There are no previously designated historic districts on this property.

■ Historic Land Use

Prior to the designation of Palm Park, Sanborn maps show that the area bounded by East 3rd Street, East Avenue (now I-35), East 1st Street (now East Cesar Chavez Street), and Red River Street consisted of mostly one-story frame dwellings. The brick Tenth Ward School, which would become the Palm School, was located at the corner of East Avenue and East 1st Street. The original alignment of Waller Creek cut south along East Avenue and then west to parallel what would become East 2nd Street.¹ By the mid-1930s, in response to the 1928 Koch and Fowler city plan, Waller Creek had been rerouted to parallel Sabine Street and then cut more gently southwest, creating the piece of land adjacent to East Avenue that was designated as Palm Park. The surrounding areas still included mostly frame dwellings and an expanded Palm School.² By the 1960s, while some frame dwellings were still present northwest of Palm Park, the park was also increasingly surrounded by industrial and commercial buildings including a large dairy complex to the southwest and commercial

¹ "Insurance Maps of Austin, Texas, 1900" (New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Company, 1900), Sheet 10, University of Texas at Austin, Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection.

² "Austin, Texas, 1935 Vol. 1.," 1:600 (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1935), Sheet 10, Library of Congress, https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn08415_006/.

businesses to the north; Palm School further expanded during this time.³ The construction of I-35 along the former East Avenue alignment to the east contributed to this commercial and industrial growth.

- **Current Land Use and Environment**

The Palm Park parcels are currently owned by the City of Austin and maintained by the City of Austin PARD. Palm Park is free to visit and open to the public. The pool is no longer in use, but the park contains playground equipment and restrooms. Waller Creek and the Waller Creek Greenbelt Trail cross the park grounds.

The I-35 southbound frontage road borders the park to the east, and East 3rd Street borders the park to the north. 3Waller, a four-story apartment complex completed in 2022, sits directly north across the road at 710 East 3rd Street. The historic-age Palm School, owned by Travis County, and the Fairmont Austin Hotel are situated south of Palm Park on the same block. East 2nd Street runs east-west between the Fairmont Hotel and Palm Park and stops at Sabine Street, which runs north-south between Palm School and the Fairmont Hotel. Maps of Palm Park and its vicinity are provided in Appendix D. Palm School was completed in 1892 and is now owned by Travis County Health and Human Services. The building was vacated by Travis County staff in 2020. The Fairmont Hotel is a 37-story structure designed by the Gensler architecture firm; it opened in 2018 and connects to the Austin Convention Center one block west via a sky bridge. There are four more parcels in the northwest corner of this block, west of the park, all owned by the City of Austin. They contain Palm Park Water Habitat (which occupies two parcels and is not within the official Palm Park boundary), the Castleman-Bull House, and the Trask House. Both houses are City of Austin Historic Landmarks. The Castleman-Bull House was moved to this location in 2001.

- **Historic Period(s) and Property Types**

The subject property is a 1930s-era park landscape that has served a recreational function since its designation. Buildings and structures within the park include the shelter building, swimming pool, tetherball court, playground, concrete steps, and the Waller Creek Greenbelt Trail. These resources were constructed between 1933 and 2003.

- **Integrity of Historic Setting**

The integrity of the historic setting is diminished by the industrial, commercial, and transportation-related development adjacent to the property, including the addition of I-35 to the east in the early 1960s, Austin Convention Center to the west in the 1990s, and more recently the Fairmont Austin Hotel to the south and 3Waller condominiums to the north. Mid-to-late-twentieth-century development was tied to urban renewal efforts in this part of downtown Austin, which diminished the former residential setting along Waller Creek. These

³ "Austin, Texas, 1935 (Revised 1961) Vol. 1.," 1:600 (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1962), Sheet 10, Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867-1970, ProQuest.

trends continue to threaten the integrity of historic setting for Palm Park. Detailed integrity information is provided in the NHRP Eligibility Recommendations section below.

Survey Methods

▪ Methodological Description

The intensive survey is in compliance with TxDOT's latest Environmental Toolkit Standards and Historical Studies guidance. A reconnaissance-level survey has been performed for the full project corridor between US 290 East and US 290 West/SH 71. This intensive-level investigation focused on clarifying the NRHP eligibility of Palm Park at 200 North I-35. This property is located in the Waller Creek District of downtown Austin, which is located on the west side of I-35 along Waller Creek. Maps are provided in Appendix D. Historic-age resources were identified using available historic maps, atlases, and aerials in combination with field observations. The property was evaluated for potential NRHP eligibility applying appropriate regional and thematic contexts. The historic context was developed using primary and secondary source material.

On behalf of TxDOT ENV, Mead & Hunt performed an intensive survey of Palm Park in January 2022. Field survey for the property included detailed photography and fieldnotes recorded electronically on tablets. Survey photographs and field data were used to produce an inventory form for the historic-age resources (see Appendix C).

▪ Comments on Methods

Investigations include one non-archaeological cultural resources intensive survey, including photographic documentation and research. Findings of the intensive survey are compiled into this HRSR completed in accordance with TxDOT's *Documentation Standard: Historical Resources Survey Report*.

Survey Results

▪ Project Area Description

Two alternatives are currently under consideration for the proposed improvements: Alternative 2 and Modified Alternative 3. Under both alternatives, proposed improvements include removing the existing I-35 upper decks, lowering the roadway, and adding two non-tolled high-occupancy-vehicle managed lanes in each direction from US 290 East to SH 71/Ben White Boulevard. Both alternatives would reconstruct frontage roads, ramps, intersections, and east-west cross-street bridges. Shared-use (pedestrian and bicycle) paths would be added along the corridor. Under Alternative 2, additional flyovers would be constructed at the I-35 and US 290 East interchange. Under both alternatives, additional ROW acquisition would be required intermittently along areas throughout the corridor. In most areas, the proposed new ROW would not extend past the first tier of parcels adjacent

to the existing I-35 ROW. Design files for both alternatives are available on the project website (www.my35capex.com). Parcels adjacent to the I-35 ROW include a mix of historic-age and non-historic-age commercial, institutional, and high-density multi-family residential resources. Several parks, cemeteries, and sports and entertainment stadiums/arenas are also present. Beyond the first tier of parcels, the APE surveyed for the project's reconnaissance HRSR includes a wider mix of resources, including established single-family residential neighborhoods, a wide range of commercial properties, governmental buildings, and educational properties.

This intensive survey focuses only on Palm Park, located in the southeast part of downtown Austin. As noted above, Palm Park encompasses an area bounded by East 3rd Street on the north, I-35 southbound frontage road on the east, Palm School and Fairmont Hotel property on the south, and Waller Creek on the west. Palm Park continues in use as a recreational property owned by the City of Austin.

▪ Literature Review

Mead & Hunt consulted a range of primary and secondary sources to develop the historic context and reevaluate the subject property for NRHP eligibility. Below is a general description of sources used and how each informed the intensive survey. Individual resources are also identified in the References Cited section.

The following secondary sources provided both general background information on the study area and property-specific information for the historic context:

- Entries from the *Handbook of Texas Online*.
- Historic contexts on the City of Austin, I-35, and Lower Waller Creek previously prepared by HHM, Inc.:
 - City of Austin Historic Resources Survey, 2016.
 - Historic Context Study of Waller Creek, 2018.
- A historic context on the park system in Omaha, Nebraska, which included information on national park development and recreational trends in the early twentieth century.
- Unpublished drafts of a Multiple Property Documentation Form, the "Historic City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) Shelter Houses," authored by Eliza Blackman.

The following historic mapping and aerial imagery sources obtained online were used to trace development patterns and land uses in the study area:

- Historic and current aerial imagery obtained through Historicaerials.com, Google Earth, and United States Geographical Survey (USGS) Earth Explorer.
- General Land Office Maps of Travis County available through the Portal to Texas History.
- USGS topographic maps of Austin available through USGS TopoView.

- Current property parcel data available from TCAD.
- Data obtained through the City of Austin’s PARD Interactive Map.
- Historic Sanborn Fire Insurance maps obtained through the University of Texas at Austin, Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection, and the Library of Congress website.
- Bird’s-eye maps obtained through the University of Texas at Austin, Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection, and the Texas Historic Map Overlay.

Property-specific primary source materials were obtained online and at the Austin History Center. These materials were used along with other sources to develop a historic overview of the development of Palm Park. These sources included the following:

- Historic photos of Palm Park available at the Austin History Center and Portal to Texas History online.
- Issues of the *Austin American-Statesman* and *Austin American* available through Newspapers.com.
- Recent local news articles on Palm Park and the Palm Park School.
- The 1928 Koch and Fowler city plan, which includes detailed information including a plan for the development of Palm Park.
- Drawings of the Palm Park Shelter House from the PARD collection.
- The City of Austin’s Waller Creek District Master Plan from 2010.

Historical Context Statement

A historic context related to the Lower Waller Creek area was developed by HHM, Inc. for the Waller Creek Conservancy (now Waterloo Greenway Conservancy) in 2018. Relevant sections of the historic context from this report are directly quoted and shown in *italics* to differentiate them from Mead & Hunt’s authorship (note: all figure captions are shown in italics but were authored by Mead & Hunt).

Development and Demographics of Austin’s Lower Waller Creek

Palm Park and Palm School are located west of I-35 (former East Avenue) between East 3rd Street and East Cesar Chavez Street (former East 1st Street), which is part of Austin’s Lower Waller Creek area. Waller Creek originates north of downtown Austin, winds south through the city, and empties into the Colorado River/Lady Bird Lake. Lower Waller Creek roughly encompasses the area along the creek from East 15th Street in the north to Lady Bird Lake in the south and between Trinity Street and I-35.⁴ By the late nineteenth century the subject parcels and surrounding area consisted of mostly frame residences (see Figure 1).⁵ In 1887 the first frame public school was constructed on the current Palm School site, facing East 1st

⁴ HHM, Inc., *Historic Context Study of Waller Creek* (Austin, Texas: prepared for the Waller Creek Conservancy, December 6, 2018), i.

⁵ “Austin, Travis County, Texas, January 1894,” 1:600 (New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Company, 1894), Sheet 19, University of Texas at Austin, Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection.

Street. The masonry-constructed Tenth Ward School replaced it in 1892.⁶ Ten years later, in 1902, the school was renamed after Swante Palm, a Swedish immigrant and prominent business owner and civic leader in Austin.⁷ The school expanded in 1910 and 1924, first to the east and then to the west and south.⁸ Notably, East 2nd Street, although platted between Palm School and the eventual Palm Park on early maps, does not appear to have ever opened to traffic at this location.⁹ Throughout the early twentieth century the community around the Palm School and future Palm Park sites continued to develop.



Figure 1. 1890 bird's-eye map shows former alignment of Waller Creek. The approximate current park area is highlighted in yellow.¹⁰

HHM, Inc.'s 2018 historic context study of Waller Creek describes Lower Waller Creek in the early twentieth century:

⁶ "Insurance Maps of Austin, Texas, 1900," Sheet 10.

⁷ HHM, Inc., *Historic Context Study of Waller Creek*, 70; "History of Svante [Sic.] Palm Elementary," *Palm Elementary*, 2022, <https://palm.austinschools.org/our-school/history>; Notably, Palm is sometimes referred to as "Sir Swante Palm" because King Oscar II of Sweden awarded him the Order of Wasa due to his role as a vice consul; however, "sir" is apparently not the correct title for that designation. Alfred E. Rogers, "Jaensson, Swen [Swante Palm] (1815-1899)," *Texas State Historical Association Handbook of Texas*, April 25, 2019, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/jaensson-swen-swante-palm>.

⁸ James Rambin, "Sound Off on the Future of Downtown Austin's Historic Palm School," *Towers*, August 2, 2018, <https://austin.towers.net/sound-off-on-the-future-of-downtown-austins-historic-palm-school/>.

⁹ "Insurance Maps of Austin, Texas, 1900," Sheet 10.

¹⁰ Augustus Koch, "Partial View of Austin, Texas" (Kansas City, Mo.: Inter-State Publishing Company, 1890), Perry-Castaneda Library at the University of Texas at Austin, https://maps.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/austin-1890-birdseyeaustin_01.jpg.

The first quarter of the twentieth century saw [a thriving] community along Waller Creek.... The Waller Creek/Red River Community remained home to diverse ethnic groups who contributed widely to the growth and vibrancy of what was then considered part of East Austin. This large African American population was interspersed with white and Mexican households...

A picture of the physical appearance of the Waller Creek and its environs below East 15th Street at the turn of the century is presented in the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of 1900. The residential neighborhood established east and west of Waller Creek in the last quarter of the nineteenth century retained its density. Dwellings remained oriented towards the creek and some utilized the creek as a backyard for recreation and utilitarian purposes, sometimes with environmentally unsafe and unpleasant results that affected life for all along the creek. In the blocks along Waller Creek south of East 3rd Street, an area previously not depicted on Sanborn maps, both old and new residential development is apparent with houses occupying most lots except that immediately west of the Palm School....

Changing demographic trends throughout the 1920s—present in the city at large—slowly became apparent in the neighborhood. The downtown neighborhoods along Waller Creek began to slowly change as white middle class families moved to suburbs outside of the central city. The minority population increased for a short time with African American families joined by increasing numbers of Mexican and Lebanese families.¹¹

By the late 1920s Austin was growing at a fast pace in both size and population, and city officials faced increasing planning needs. [In 1927] the city council hired Dallas-based civil engineering firm Koch and Fowler to prepare a comprehensive city plan. In addition to recommendations for the planning and future development of parks, streets, and community institutions such as schools and fire stations, the plan that Koch and Fowler developed also analyzed existing land uses. The completed plan proposed that the City of Austin adopt zoning rules to manage growth. This component of the plan served as a way to legitimize institutional segregation and had far-reaching consequences for minorities living along [l]ower Waller Creek and throughout the city.¹²

Koch and Fowler's 1928 City Plan "presented detailed plans for municipal parks along Austin's waterways because 'the natural beauty of its topography and the unusual climate [made] it an ideal residential city.'" The consultants supported the City of Austin's purchase of property immediately north of the Palm School for use as a neighborhood park and playground. The path of Waller Creek would have to be straightened north of the school to open up the space....The document also noted, "Several neighborhood parks should be developed throughout this [city] to serve the adjoining territory as local neighborhood parks

¹¹ HHM, Inc., *Historic Context Study of Waller Creek*, 68.

¹² HHM, Inc., *Historic Context Study of Waller Creek*, 95.

and community centers.” One of these was [the] proposed playground on the enlarged grounds of the Palm School (see Figure 2).... Over the course of the next decade, the City of Austin would implement many of the recommendations set forth in the Koch and Fowler City Plan using funds from the passage of bonds and, with the start of the Great Depression, various forms of federal aid.¹³

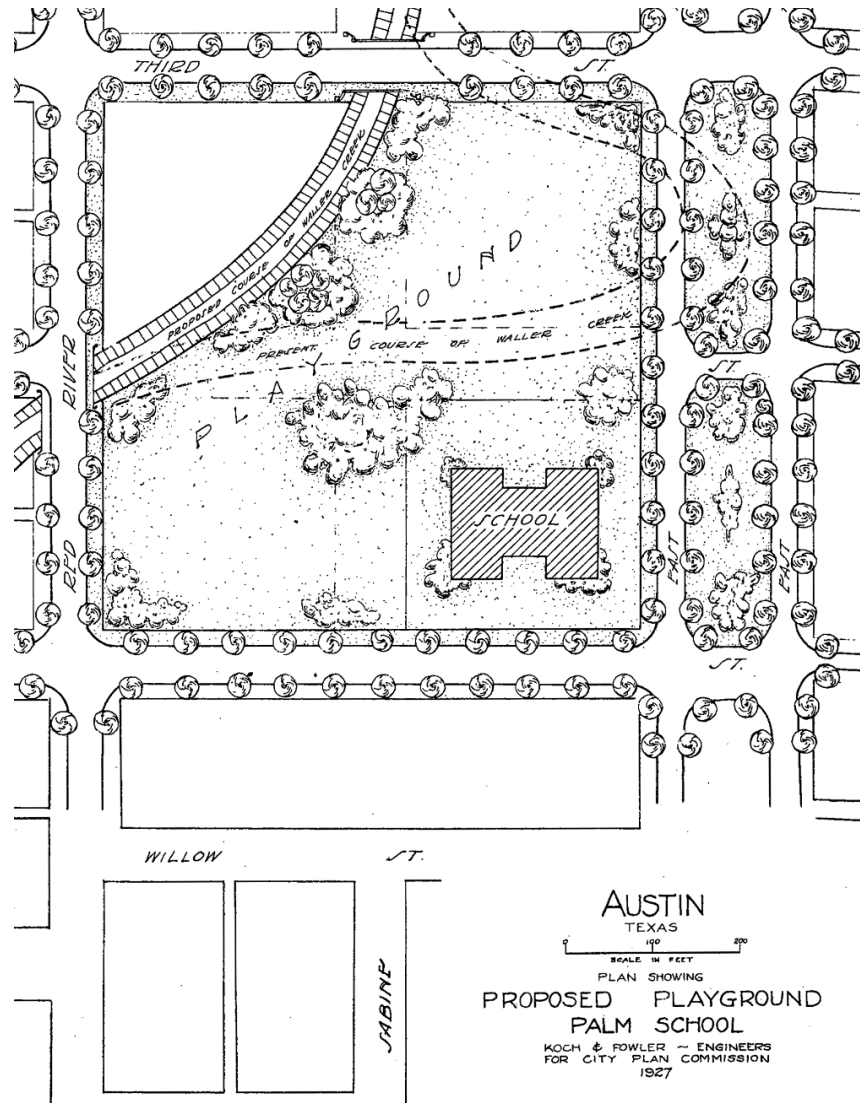


Figure 2. Original Palm Park plan in 1928 Koch and Fowler city plan showing the original and proposed routes for Waller Creek.¹⁴

By the late 1930s and 1940s the effects of the city plan were apparent throughout Lower Waller Creek, including the area around Palm School and Palm Park. Waller Creek was effectively rerouted along a new channel to eliminate its sharp bend through the area, and

¹³ HHM, Inc., *Historic Context Study of Waller Creek*, 96.

¹⁴ Koch & Fowler, Consulting Engineers, *A City Plan for Austin, Texas* (Austin, Texas: prepared for the City Plan Commission, 1928), Plate 14.

Palm Park opened to the public. At the same time, the area south of East 7th Street along lower Waller Creek showed increasing commercial growth.¹⁵ Implementation of the city plan also displaced many Black and Mexican American residents:

Once a dense population group concentrated along lower Waller Creek, most African American households resided east of East Avenue by 1940. A few remained scattered in the vicinity of Waller Creek along Red River Street. Likewise, most Mexican American households in Austin were clustered further east, south of the enclave of African American families. A significant concentration of Mexican American families still lived in the Waller Creek area in the Driskill & Rainey and Bridge View neighborhoods, which were located south of East 1st Street along Rainey Street and west of East Avenue. Bridge View was closely connected to, and essentially undistinguishable from, the Mexican American neighborhoods to the east prior to the construction of I-35.¹⁶

The Lower Waller Creek area saw the effects of citywide urban renewal in the mid-to-late twentieth century. In 1955 the City of Austin hired a consultant to prepare a comprehensive master plan. The Austin Development Plan, published in 1958, called for the restriction of development along lower Waller Creek to commercial buildings and planned for the removal of public facilities, including Palm School. While the city council ultimately rejected the plan, the ideas it presented on transportation corridors, public facilities, and land use were influential for future planning. The construction of I-35, which was completed in May 1962 along former East Avenue, cut off Lower Waller Creek, including Palm School and Palm Park, from East Austin. These factors drove displacement of Mexican American residents living along lower Waller Creek. Interstate construction split the Mexican American community that had previously spanned either side of East Avenue, cutting off residents in the Driskill & Rainey and Bridge View subdivisions from East Austin. Many of the predominantly Mexican American children who attended Palm School lived in East Austin, so they could no longer easily walk to campus, and lost access to Palm Park as well. In 1976 the new George I. Sanchez Elementary School opened on the east side of I-35, serving many of these students, and Palm School closed. In 1992 a new Austin Convention Center was completed one block west of Palm Park, which further accelerated the commercial development and gentrification of the area.¹⁷

Recreation and Park Design

During the first decade of the twentieth century the United States experienced a national shift in attitude about the purpose of public parks. While parks were previously used for passive recreation and the quiet enjoyment of picturesque scenery, they took on an additional function as sites of athletics and play. Progressive activists argued that in providing locations for both active and passive recreation—for example, athletics and

¹⁵ HHM, Inc., *Historic Context Study of Waller Creek*, 126.

¹⁶ HHM, Inc., *Historic Context Study of Waller Creek*, 138.

¹⁷ HHM, Inc., *Historic Context Study of Waller Creek*, 172–81.

picnicking—parks could counteract the negative effects of industrial growth and urban congestion. This cultural shift took place on a national scale, as suggested by statistics on the maintenance of public playgrounds. In 1900 only 11 cities nationwide had public playgrounds, but by 1910 this number had grown to 180, and in 1920, 428 cities maintained public playgrounds.¹⁸

In the late 1920s Austin was lagging somewhat behind this national trend, with only a few parks and one playground. A citywide survey completed by the Playgrounds and Recreation Association of America in 1926 concluded that Austin needed a new play and recreation system. The 1928 Koch and Fowler city plan was released on the heels of the recreation survey. It underscored the importance of parks for recreation and play, and especially encouraged development of small neighborhood parks accessible to local residents “within walking distance of every person in the city.”¹⁹

The city plan recommended that land adjacent to schools be prioritized for park and playground development.²⁰ To this end, Koch and Fowler identified the property north and west of Palm School for a community playground, providing details on which lots the city should purchase and how to excavate it and reroute Waller Creek:

At present Waller Creek cuts across private property and just south of Third Street has just practically destroyed East Avenue; and then it cuts back west in Second Street and continues across First Street to the river. The Palm School Grounds at present contains one block and the greater portion of said block is covered by the school building. The property immediately north of Palm School, on account of being isolated and cut up by Waller Creek, is very cheap property, and in a neglected area. However, this block contains quite a few wonderful trees. The block to the west of Palm School, excepting for its frontage on first street, is also very cheap property and will remain so as long as Waller Creek is permitted to continue in its present condition. It is our recommendation that these tracts of lands be acquired by the city, and that the course of Waller Creek be straightened. The excavated material can be used to fill up the channel over the abandoned area. Second Street from Red River to East Avenue and Sabine Street from First to Third could be vacated and this entire tract covered into a very desirable neighborhood playground.²¹

A drawing of Palm Park in the 1928 city plan (see Figure 2) is one of only two individual park plans included in the document, which emphasizes the centrality of the park to Koch and Fowler’s vision of city development and its role as an example that could be replicated around the city.²² With its proximity to East Avenue, scattered vegetation concentrated along the waterway, and the winding course of Waller Creek, the park plan reflects Koch and

¹⁸ Omaha City Planning Department, “A History of Omaha’s Parks and Recreation System,” 1982, 8, Omaha City Planning Department, Omaha, Neb.

¹⁹ Koch & Fowler, Consulting Engineers, *A City Plan for Austin, Texas*, 24.

²⁰ Koch & Fowler, Consulting Engineers, *A City Plan for Austin, Texas*, 25.

²¹ Koch & Fowler, Consulting Engineers, *A City Plan for Austin, Texas*, 55–56.

²² Koch & Fowler, Consulting Engineers, *A City Plan for Austin, Texas*, Plate 14.

Fowler's intention that neighborhood parks be "readily accessible by means of drives and boulevards" and should provide "ample sidewalks, interesting shrubbery, flowers, trees, and lawns and other features which would make the park inviting as a place for rest and recreation."²³

Importantly, Koch and Fowler's vision was also explicitly segregationist; they proposed a separate district for Black residents in East Austin that would include its own park facilities at Rosewood Park between Rosewood Avenue and East 12th Street.²⁴ Although the city plan did not specifically recommend it, the city also opened a separate Mexican American park—Zaragosa Park (now known as Parque Zaragoza)—south of Rosewood Park in East Austin in 1931.²⁵ Though the report does not specifically state so, it implies that Koch and Fowler intended Palm Park, along with other resources located west of East Avenue, to be used by White residents.

To implement the ideas put forth in the 1928 Koch and Fowler plan, the city established the Parks and Playgrounds Committee that would eventually become the PARD. James Garrison, a graduate of the National Recreation Association and supporter of the early-twentieth-century Playground Movement, was named Director of Recreation, and prominent local architect Hugo Kuehne became Vice Chairman. Kuehne, an Austin native, was nationally prominent as an architect and city planner. He graduated from the University of Texas and earned his Master's degree in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Later he helped organize the University of Texas School of Architecture and served as a professor. He was very active in Austin civic life, served as president of the Central Texas Society of Architects, and was named as a fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1944. Kuehne designed many prominent buildings in Austin including the Austin Public Library (now the Austin History Center), International Life Building, American National Bank, and buildings for the Austin State Hospital.²⁶ Prior to his appointment to the Parks and Playgrounds Committee, Kuehne had already designed local park structures including a caretaker's cottage at Zilker Park and bathhouse at Barton Springs.²⁷

Within the new neighborhood parks and playgrounds, Kuehne designed a series of shelter houses to provide restrooms and spaces for recreational programming. The shelters utilized the dogtrot design in a reference to Texas folk architecture and pioneer building methods. Many were constructed in the Rustic style employed in parks nationwide, and showcased local building materials in their construction. The shelters provided a focal point for programming, from dances to performances to athletics, and became central to the recreational missions of the neighborhood parks and playgrounds. The fieldstone shelter

²³ Koch & Fowler, Consulting Engineers, *A City Plan for Austin, Texas*, 24. Note that although technically Koch and Fowler categorized Palm Park as a playground and not a neighborhood park, its design still followed their intentions for neighborhood parks.

²⁴ Koch & Fowler, Consulting Engineers, *A City Plan for Austin, Texas*, 57.

²⁵ Eliza Blackman, "Historic PARD Shelter Houses Historic Context [Unpublished Draft]," November 27, 2019, 2.

²⁶ "Architect Kuehne Funeral Is Today," *The Austin American*, November 27, 1963; Roxanne Williamson, "Kuehne, Hugo Franz," *Texas State Historical Association Handbook of Texas*, February 1, 1995, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/kuehne-hugo-franz>.

²⁷ Blackman, "Historic PARD Shelter Houses Historic Context [Unpublished Draft]," 1–2.

building in Palm Park (see Figure 3), completed in 1933, is one of eight of these shelters that are still extant throughout Austin, including one in the historically Mexican American Parque Zaragoza in East Austin. Although Kuehne is only recorded as the architect of three of the shelters, including those at Eastwoods Park, Little Stacy Park, and West Austin Park, he is believed to have been involved in the overall design scheme for all of them.²⁸

²⁸ Blackman, "Historic PARD Shelter Houses Historic Context [Unpublished Draft]," 3; Eliza Blackman, "Historic PARD Shelter Houses Multiple Property Form [Unpublished Draft]," November 27, 2019.

Following the release of the 1928 city plan and creation of the Parks and Playgrounds Committee, the development of neighborhood parks and playgrounds throughout Austin—including Palm Park—was hugely successful. Austin’s park programming had more than 1.6 million participants in 1934, and eventually other cities began to look to Austin as a national model for recreation programming.³⁰

Palm Park History

A 1922 *Austin American* article suggests that even before the 1928 city plan or official designation of the playground, the area surrounding Palm School was already effectively being used as a park.³¹ As described above (see Recreation and Park Design), Koch and Fowler presented a plan for Palm Park including the rechannelization of Waller Creek in their 1928 report. The city wasted no time in implementing their vision, purchasing lots north of the school in 1929 and beginning construction in 1930.³² Notably, though the 1928 Koch and Fowler plan recommended developing the lots to the west of the school as well, they were not ultimately incorporated into Palm Park.

The process of developing the land that would become Palm Park is detailed in HHM, Inc.’s 2018 Historic Context Study of Waller Creek:

The rechannelization of Waller Creek and the creation of what became Palm Park...[were both] funded through a bond program passed in 1928 and with federal aid. It was one of several municipal parks created at that time. An aerial view of the Palm School vicinity from around 1930 shows the area not long before the creek’s rechannelization. The creek ran directly behind the Palm School and the block adjacent, limiting the grounds around the school and effectively cutting off East 2nd Street from a connection with East Avenue. The Austin American-Statesman reported, “Additional grounds are to be secured for Palm School by the city which plans to reclaim part of the waste territory in that section and convert it into a parked area as an addition to the Palm school campus.” The first step in the rechannelization and park project was the removal of houses along Waller Creek in the block bound by East 2nd, East 3rd, and Sabine Streets and East Avenue; the City accepted bids for this work in June 1928. The City of Austin bore the expenses for materials and tools while the Civil Works Administration—which headquartered in the [L]ower Waller Creek area in a block of buildings on East 6th Street—covered labor costs.³³

Plans for the beautification of what would become Palm Park included a replacement bridge over Waller Creek at East 2nd Street, which had washed away in the floods of 1915. The work was to be funded by the 1930 bond package, and the bridge opened on September 25, 1930, connecting the downtown area with East Austin and providing easy access to the

³⁰ Blackman, “Historic PARD Shelter Houses Historic Context [Unpublished Draft],” 3.

³¹ “Parents Kick on Palm Park Loafing Tribe,” *The Austin American*, May 26, 1922.

³² “Old Tenth Ward Gets Playground After Purchases,” *The Austin American*, March 8, 1929.

³³ HHM, Inc., *Historic Context Study of Waller Creek*, 100.

new park land.³⁴ In November 1930, city engineer Jac Gubbels submitted a “Palm School playground plan” [that] included two ball courts; two volleyball courts; two croquet courts; a double tennis court; a swimming pool; a pergola; and a brick gymnasium fit for community meetings, athletics, and theater performances.³⁵ [Some of] that work was completed in the spring of 1931, and the city approved the budget allocating funds for development of the playground in September 1932. The well-equipped playground and pool opened May 29, 1933, and the shelter building opened that same year.³⁶ It is unclear whether some of the other features mentioned in the plan, including the wide variety of athletic courts, were ever completed. A bridge over Waller Creek along Red River Street, just west of the park, opened in the mid-1930s.³⁷

By the mid-1930s and 1940s Palm Park was complete and in daily use by the students who attended Palm School (which expanded in the 1930s and again in the 1940s) and residents of nearby neighborhoods (see Figure 4).³⁸ East Austin residents could easily cross East Avenue on foot to access the park (see Figure 5). In 1935 Palm Park was one of six city parks for which the city hired supervisors to plan recreational programming and oversee operations.³⁹ A 1941 photograph (see Figure 6) shows a lifeguard teaching swimming in the Palm Park pool, indicating that swim classes were offered at the park. One limitation of the programming at this time and for many years to follow was that the Lower Waller Creek area experienced periods of severe flooding. At one point in the spring of 1935 the Palm Park Playground was saturated underneath six feet of water.⁴⁰ Infrastructure would not be developed to address the flooding issues until the Waller Creek Tunnel went under construction in 2011; eventually, the one-mile-long tunnel would divert floodwaters from Waterloo Park to Lady Bird Lake, relieving flooding in the Lower Waller Creek area.⁴¹

³⁴ HHM, Inc., *Historic Context Study of Waller Creek*, 108.

³⁵ “Improvement of City Parks Voted,” *The Austin American*, November 19, 1930.

³⁶ HHM, Inc., *Historic Context Study of Waller Creek*, 100.

³⁷ A 1952 aerial image shows tennis courts north located north of the swimming pool but no evidence of the range of other courts mentioned in the initial park plan. “Aerial Image, Austin, Texas, 1952,” 1952, Historic Aerials by NETR Online, <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>; HHM, Inc., *Historic Context Study of Waller Creek*, 107.

³⁸ “Austin, Texas, 1935 (Revised 1961) Vol. 1,” Sheet 10.

³⁹ “Playground Work Starts March 15,” *The Austin American*, February 10, 1935.

⁴⁰ HHM, Inc., *Historic Context Study of Waller Creek*, 106–7.

⁴¹ Elizabeth Findell, “City: Waller Creek Tunnel Works, Despite Fight Over Construction Flaws,” *Austin American-Statesman*, March 24, 2018, <https://www.statesman.com/story/news/2018/03/24/city-waller-creek-tunnel-works-despite-fight-over-construction-flaws/10032176007/>; “Waller Creek District and Tunnel,” *AustinTexas.Gov*, accessed February 22, 2022, <https://www.austintexas.gov/departments/waller-creek-district-and-tunnel>.



Figure 4. Children playing west of Palm Park shelter, 1945.⁴²



Figure 5. c. 1940 photo of the east side of Palm Park with East Avenue visible. Note pedestrian to the right crossing East Avenue to access park.⁴³

⁴² "Concrete Slab at Palm," February 9, 1945, AF-PARKS P1200 (20), Austin History Center.

⁴³ Austin (Tex.), Bureau of Identification Photographic Laboratory, "[Palm Park]," n.d., AF-PARKS P1200 (20), Austin History Center. Note that although the date created according to Austin History Center records is 1959, that does not correspond with the vehicles and clothing visible in the photo which appear to be earlier.



Figure 6. 1941 photo of lifeguard and children in Palm Park pool.⁴⁴

Discriminatory practices limited who was welcome to use the Palm Park pool in an era when and a place where segregated swimming was typically enforced. One former Mexican American student who attended Palm School recalled that during the Depression era he was not allowed to swim in the pool and was even chased out of the park by other children. Another former Palm School student also remembered that in the late 1940s and 1950s the pool was segregated and that Mexican American children swam in Waller Creek nearby.⁴⁵ It appears that even as the pool remained segregated and limited to use by White residents, some Austinites thought of Palm Park as a space for Mexican American residents. A Mexican American mother who tried to bring her daughter to the Metz Park pool in 1951 was told by a lifeguard there that she should go to either Palm Park or Parque Zaragoza, which were “parks for Latin Americans.”⁴⁶ Apparently local residents, including the many Mexican Americans who lived in the area and attended Palm School, received conflicting messages about who was welcome at the park and at the pool.

⁴⁴ Bureau of Identification Photographic Laboratory, “Children in Palm Park Swimming Pool,” June 5, 1941, The Portal to Texas History, University of North Texas Libraries, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph124582/m1/1/?q=palm%20park>.

⁴⁵ HHM, Inc., *Historic Context Study of Waller Creek*, 106, 142–43.

⁴⁶ “Discrimination at Pool Claimed,” *Austin American-Statesman*, August 2, 1951.

The development of I-35 directly east of Palm Park in the late 1950s and early 1960s constituted a major change to the setting of the park and ability for local residents to access it. It had been common for families and children to walk across East Avenue to Palm School and Palm Park, but they could no longer easily do so after the Interstate was in place.⁴⁷ This was just one of several issues that pitted school advocates against government officials. By the late 1960s local newspapers show significant complaints about Palm School conditions and rising tension between the School Board and the Parent Teacher Association, which accused the board of discriminatory practices toward their students. The Mexican American Student Organization at the University of Texas at Austin became involved and organized on behalf of Palm School students.⁴⁸ These were only a few of many citywide school discrimination and segregation accusations.⁴⁹ In 1976 the Palm School closed, and a new elementary school opened across I-35 in East Austin to serve the predominantly Mexican American community. The new Sanchez School had been constructed as part of desegregation negotiations between the Austin Independent School District (AISD), National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and Mexican-American Legal Defense Education Fund.⁵⁰

In the 1970s and 1980s the city maintained and improved Palm Park's amenities. The Greenbelt Trail along Waller Creek, which connected and improved circulation patterns along the waterway through downtown Austin, was planned in the mid-1970s and completed in the mid-1980s (see Figure 7).⁵¹ A 1980 newspaper article indicated that, at that time, Palm Park offered picnic tables, a shelter, off-street parking, restrooms, a swimming pool, an open playfield, play equipment, a play slab, and two tennis courts.⁵²

⁴⁷ "Forgotten Austin Park Getting New Life," *KXAN Austin*, May 11, 2018, <https://www.kxan.com/news/local/austin/forgotten-austin-park-getting-new-life/>.

⁴⁸ Alicia Helton, "Board Hears Complaints on Palm School Building," *Austin American-Statesman*, March 12, 1968; Alicia Helton, "Repairs Study Ordered," *Austin American-Statesman*, February 13, 1968.

⁴⁹ Nell Lee, "City Said Segregating Intentionally," *Austin American-Statesman*, June 15, 1971.

⁵⁰ HHM, Inc., *City of Austin Historic Resources Survey: Final Report, Volume I* (Prepared for the City of Austin, October 2016), 142.

⁵¹ Mike Cox, "Students Seek Improvement: Recreation Trails Hoped for Waller Creek," *Austin American-Statesman*, October 22, 1972; Peggy Vlerebome, "Waller Creek Project Jogs Old Memories," *Austin American-Statesman*, March 1, 1982.

⁵² "Park Amenities," *Austin American-Statesman*, August 31, 1980, *The River Rambler: Recreational Activities Fall-Winter 1980* edition.

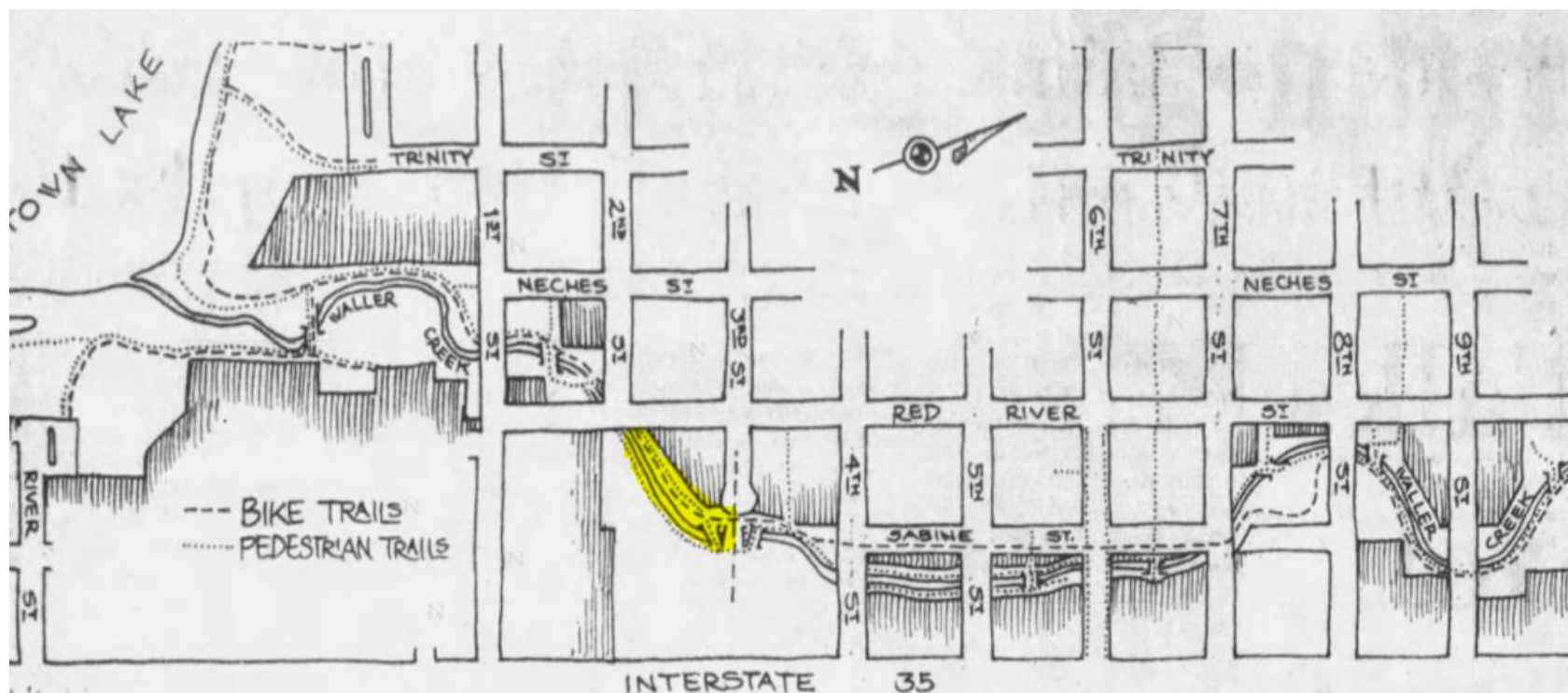


Figure 7. Plan for Waller Creek Greenbelt Trail in 1972; portion through Palm Park is highlighted.⁵³

⁵³ Cox, "Students Seek Improvement: Recreation Trails Hoped for Waller Creek."

Throughout the early to mid-1990s the *Austin American-Statesman* reported city council discussions on whether the Palm Park pool should close due to its poor physical condition, relatively low attendance numbers, and regular use by people who were homeless. By this time, though, the park and pool were fixtures of the local Hispanic community. A coalition of Hispanic neighborhood associations, El Concilio, rallied to keep the pool open. In 1996 the co-founder of El Concilio, Paul Hernandez, described how the pool represented the history of discrimination in this area: “Many of us remember the racism we grew up with in Austin. We couldn’t even come to this pool.... Now the pool is our symbol of the struggle to keep East Austin a viable minority community.”⁵⁴ El Concilio petitioned the city for better programming and a daily police patrol in Palm Park, successfully keeping the pool open for many years.⁵⁵ One additional complicating factor was that the pool lacked filtration and used a “fill and draw” system wherein its 94,000 gallons of water had to be drained nightly and refilled, driving concerns about water waste and associated costs.⁵⁶ Finally, in 2010, the pool officially closed, and around that same time a set of tennis courts located just north of the pool were removed and replaced with a grassy lawn.⁵⁷

National Register Eligibility Recommendations

▪ Eligible Properties/Districts

Resources 404A-G: Palm Park, 200 North I-35

Palm Park is located in the southeast corner of downtown Austin. It was initially planned as part of the 1928 Koch and Fowler Austin city plan and was completed by 1933. The park encompasses approximately 3.25 acres between East 3rd Street to the north, Red River Street to the west, East 2nd Street and the Palm School property (100 North I-35 southbound frontage road) to the south, and the I-35 southbound frontage road to the east.⁵⁸ The northwest border of Palm Park follows Waller Creek. Buildings and structures on the northwest corner of the city block, including two historic-age homes and a water habitat, are not included within the current or historic park boundary. Although the park was intentionally developed adjacent to the Palm School and used by many of its students, the school is a separate resource that dates to the late nineteenth century and Palm Park is therefore evaluated separately from Palm School.

⁵⁴ Kori Donaldson, “Pool Closing Angers East Austinites,” *Austin American-Statesman*, June 1, 1996.

⁵⁵ John Bryant, “Pool Stays Open,” *Austin American-Statesman*, April 25, 1991, sec. Neighbor; Carlos Cordova, “Hispanic Community Rallying Behind Palm Park,” *Austin American-Statesman*, September 3, 1991.

⁵⁶ Kori Donaldson, “Budget Move Opens Pool; Dry Weather Could Close It,” *Austin American-Statesman*, June 4, 1996; Michael R. Boston, “City’s Water Use Tops All,” *Austin American-Statesman*, July 30, 1998.

⁵⁷ Elizabeth Findell, “Budget, Planning Woes on the Horizon for Deteriorating Austin Pools,” *Austin American-Statesman*, July 28, 2017, <https://www.statesman.com/story/news/2017/07/28/budget-planning-woes-on-the-horizon-for-deteriorating-austin-pools/10081456007/>; “Aerial Image, Travis County, 2006,” 2006, Google Earth Pro; “Aerial Image, Travis County, 2009,” 2009, Google Earth Pro.

⁵⁸ Allison Hardy, “PARD Interactive Map,” *City of Austin GIS and Maps*, n.d., <https://austin.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=c069f13f4f1a4260b8694a2cb30b5880>.

Palm Park contains five contributing resources and two noncontributing resources (see Table 1). Palm Park is counted as a contributing site and one contributing building, the shelter, is located within it. The swimming pool, tetherball court, and concrete steps, are all counted as contributing structures, while the Waller Creek Greenbelt Trail and playground are noncontributing structures. The Waller Creek Greenbelt Trail and playground are categorized as noncontributing based on construction dates outside of the period of significance, which spans from 1929 until 1976. Character-defining features within the Palm Park contributing site (404A) include landscaping and large trees scattered throughout the park. Picnic tables, trash cans, bike racks, fencing, signage, lighting, and utilities are common park features and, while they contribute to a sense of feeling and association, the fixtures are modern in character and are collectively considered noncontributing to Palm Park.

Table 1. Contributing and noncontributing elements to Palm Park

Resource Name	Resource ID	Construction Date ⁵⁹	Contributing Status
Palm Park	404A	1929	Contributing Site
Shelter	404B	1933	Contributing Building
Swimming Pool	404C	1933	Contributing Structure
Concrete Steps	404D	c.1933	Contributing Structure
Tetherball Court	404E	c.1970	Contributing Structure
Waller Creek Greenbelt Trail	404F	1981	Noncontributing Structure
Playground	404G	2003	Noncontributing Structure

The City of Austin acquired the land that would become Palm Park in 1929.⁶⁰ The landscape is generally flat, open, and grassy with scattered deciduous trees including mature live oak and pecan trees located along the I-35 southbound frontage road and bordering a concrete pedestrian path that winds through the park landscape. The trees generally follow Koch and Fowler's 1928 park plan, with several scattered trees along the former East Avenue corridor and a thick cover of deciduous trees and dense vegetation lining Waller Creek. The creek, which originates north of downtown and flows south through Palm Park and then several more blocks to the Colorado River, carves out a ravine with relatively steep banks, especially on its south side. Bridges (located outside of the Palm Park boundary) carry East 3rd Street (NBI No. 142270B00008001) and Red River Street (NBI No. 142270B00005001) over Waller Creek. Circulation patterns include the Waller Creek Greenbelt Trail (404F), this portion of which was completed by 1981. This is part of a larger trail that extends north and southwest on either side of the park.⁶¹ Although the trail generally follows Waller Creek, the

⁵⁹ Unless otherwise indicated above, construction dates are taken from the City of Austin's PARD Interactive Map Hardy, "PARD Interactive Map."

⁶⁰ Hardy, "PARD Interactive Map."

⁶¹ "Aerial Image, Austin, Texas, 1981," 1981, Historic Aerials by NETR Online, <https://www.historicaerials.com/viewer>; Vlrebome, "Waller Creek Project Jogs Old Memories."

Palm Park portion deviates from the creek bank to meander through the park landscape. Other concrete sidewalks in the park line the I-35 southbound frontage road and provide access to the shelter, playground, and pool. An unpaved parking area is located along the south side of the park with access on East 2nd Street; however, it appears to be used for valet parking for the Fairmont Hotel and is not available for park visitors. A modern park sign is located at the corner of East 3rd Street and the I-35 frontage road and reads “Sir Swante Palm Neighborhood Park, 200 North IH-35 SB.” Other minor landscaping features include two modern metal picnic tables, one bike rack, and several square concrete trash receptacles along the walkways. A few modern light standards are located in the Palm School parking lot, adjacent to the park. Low wood fence posts connected by a single metal chain line some portions of the park perimeter.

The shelter (Resource 404B) is located at the eastern side of the park and is surrounded by two large pecan trees that stand to the north and east. It was likely designed by architect Hugo Kuehne and completed in 1933. The one-story, Rustic-style building has a rectangular plan and dogtrot design with small, square, enclosed massings to the north and south connected by an open breezeway. The building was originally used for restrooms, although they now appear to be closed to the public. The shelter is constructed of uncut fieldstone and features a castellated parapet around the roofline. Arched doorways with replacement wood doors are located on the east elevation of the north massing and east and west elevations of the south massing. The west elevation of the north massing has an arched metal door. These door openings feature arched fieldstone surrounds with keystones. Pairs of small arches above the doorways originally had louvered screens and are now filled in with stone. Additional window openings to the north and south, accented with fieldstone lintels and sills, now hold wooden replacement vents. A rectangular-shaped metal door facing inward on the north side of the south restroom tower likely leads to a storage space. Along the west elevation, the walls of the towers extend in decorative cat-slide wingwalls that terminate in square stone pillars. The shelter is on a concrete pad that extends to the west and is used as a multipurpose court. The portion that forms the breezeway foundation is scored to look like curved stone. Other than the door and window replacements, alterations include an accessible ramp with modern metal railing on the north restroom tower and metal bars with lighting mounted along the open breezeway framing. The breezeway may have originally been covered.⁶²

The Palm Park swimming pool (Resource 404C) was completed in 1933. It is located at the center of the park, west of the shelter building and southeast of Waller Creek. It measures approximately 75 feet by 37 feet. Currently closed and surrounded with chain-link fencing, the pool is bordered by concrete that is struck to look like curved stone. It is covered with a tarp; however, three sets of metal steps with handrails are visible rising around its perimeter. Two metal benches are evenly spaced north of the pool and one is located to the

⁶² Blackman, “Historic PARD Shelter Houses Multiple Property Form [Unpublished Draft],” 2.

west. A concrete base that may have once held a diving board is also located on the west end of the pool.

A small set of concrete steps (Resource 404D) provides access to the I-35 southbound frontage road sidewalk, which generally follows the same alignment as former East Avenue and therefore may be original to the park. Additional recreational equipment includes a c.1970 tetherball court (Resource 404E) and modern playground (Resource 404G). The tetherball court is a small circular concrete pad with metal pole. There is currently no tetherball attached to the pole. It is located in the eastern portion of Palm Park, just south of the shelter. Modern playground equipment is located in the southeast corner of the park. It rests in a mulch bed bordered by concrete curbs. Historic aerial photography available on Google Earth shows that two tennis courts previously located northwest of the pool were removed c.2010, and that area is now covered with grass.⁶³

Significance

Criterion A

Based on the historic contexts, Palm Park was evaluated for NRHP Criterion A significance in the areas of Ethnic Heritage and Entertainment/Recreation.

Palm Park was constructed in the early 1930s as a neighborhood park and playground. According to the historic context, the surrounding Lower Waller Creek area had increasing Mexican American settlement at this time and many Mexican American children attended the adjacent Palm School. In an era of segregated recreation, along with Parque Zaragoza in East Austin, Palm Park became known for serving Austin's Mexican American community. Despite this, Mexican Americans were barred from using the swimming pool at Palm Park due to discriminatory segregationist policies. Hispanic advocacy groups later described the park and pool as a symbol of their community and heritage within Austin. Many other resources that were historically associated with Mexican Americans living along lower Waller Creek, including residences, churches, and businesses, were removed as a result of urban renewal and redevelopment in downtown Austin beginning in the mid-twentieth century. As a gathering place for the local Mexican American community and a symbol of the discriminatory policies that they endured, Palm Park is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage for its association with "a historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community."⁶⁴ Its period of significance begins with the completion of the park in 1933 and ends in 1976, which is the year the adjacent Palm School closed, cutting off a major connection between the park and the local Hispanic community that had by that time largely migrated to the east side of I-35.

⁶³ "Aerial Image, Travis County, 2006"; "Aerial Image, Travis County, 2009."

⁶⁴ National Park Service, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, 1997), 12.

The development of Palm Park, beginning with the original land purchase in 1929 and continuing with the rechannelization of Waller Creek and construction of park facilities including the shelter and swimming pool in 1933, represented important improvements to recreation in Austin. Prior to this, the city lagged behind other American centers in its park and playground facilities. Palm Park, which was one of only two parks specifically highlighted in Koch and Fowler's 1928 city plan, represented the efforts of the newly created Parks and Playgrounds Committee and followed their recommendations. Moreover, the committee's vice chairman, Hugo Kuehne, was likely directly involved in the design of the Palm Park shelter. Therefore, Palm Park is significant under Criterion A in the area of Entertainment/Recreation for its association with "a historic trend that made a significant contribution to the development of a community."⁶⁵ Its period of significance begins in 1929, when the park land was initially purchased, and ends in 1933, when the vision of the Parks and Playgrounds Committee was complete and the park opened to the public.

Criterion B

Research did not indicate historic associations with significant figures in local, state, or national history. Therefore, Palm Park does not convey NRHP significance under Criterion B.

Criterion C

Palm Park was evaluated for potential significance under NRHP Criterion C for landscape architecture and the design/construction of the shelter building.

According to NRHP Bulletin 15, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, a property can be significant under Criterion C if it "embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represents the work of a master; or possesses high artistic value."⁶⁶ The 1928 Koch and Fowler city plan presented a basic scheme for Palm Park, describing the land to purchase and a method of rechannelizing Waller Creek and showing general areas of tree plantings and vegetation, which still exist today. The city plan did not provide a more involved landscape design with specific plantings or a layout showing where elements like the shelter or swimming pool would be situated. There is no record that park elements were specifically planned as part of a designed landscape, and research did not indicate that the park is the work of a specific landscape architect. Overall, park elements are relatively common, seen in many other parks across Austin, and do not possess high artistic value.

The shelter building was considered for the possibility of individual architectural significance. Although it does display a distinctive design with its dogtrot layout and fieldstone material, many of the original architectural elements including doors, windows, and a covered roof have been removed or replaced. It may be more appropriate for the

⁶⁵ National Park Service, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, 12.

⁶⁶ National Park Service, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, 17.

significance of the shelter to be considered alongside the other remaining shelter buildings designed by Hugo Kuehne for Austin parks during this era. An unpublished Multiple Property Documentation Form has been prepared and could be pursued further. For the purposes of this study, the shelter does not meet requirements for individual NRHP eligibility.

Due to Hugo Kuehne's involvement in the design of the shelter and, as vice chairman of the Parks and Playgrounds Committee, likely in the overall park plan, Palm Park was considered for potential significance under Criterion C as the work of a master. Research indicated that Kuehne designed many other prominent buildings in Austin throughout his career, including the Austin Public Library (now the Austin History Center) and other park structures including shelters, a bathhouse, and a caretaker's cottage. Palm Park and its components do not stand out in comparison to other resources that Kuehne designed and are not singularly representative of his work.

For the reasons indicated above, Palm Park is not significant under Criterion C.

Integrity

Palm Park is situated in its original location and has its original boundaries, maintaining integrity of location. The park generally retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship to the time it was initially laid out, with the major elements of Waller Creek, the park shelter, and the swimming pool remaining in their original configuration, and the built elements of the shelter and pool retaining many original materials. Due to Palm Park's continued recreational usage, the integrity of feeling and association are also still present. Landscape features, including trees and other vegetation, circulation patterns, playground equipment, and picnic tables, contribute to feeling and association even if they do not reflect the exact original design. These facilities' updates reflect the natural progression of park landscapes to fit the changing needs of area residents. The only significant known alteration to the park landscape has been the removal of tennis courts that were formerly situated north of the swimming pool. Since the end of the period of significance, the construction of the high-rise Fairmont Hotel to the south, Convention Center to the west, and 3Waller apartment complex to the north has changed the park's surroundings to become increasingly modernized and urbanized, which somewhat diminishes its integrity of setting. Nevertheless, Palm Park retains enough of its original elements and configuration to convey significance under Criterion A.

NRHP Boundaries

The recommended NRHP boundary includes the legal parcels (TCAD parcels 191622 and part of 191609) and the vacated Sabine Street ROW that collectively comprise Palm Park. See Appendix D for a map depicting the boundary. The boundary follows the East 3rd Street ROW to the north, I-35 ROW to the east, and parking lot to the south, and deviates from the parcel boundaries to follow the east bank of Waller Creek to the west. Palm Park is recommended eligible under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage and

Entertainment/Recreation and its significance is tied to the initial construction of the park as well as its use by the local Hispanic community over time. According to the NRHP Bulletin *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*, boundaries for historic sites should be selected to “encompass the area where the historic events took place.”⁶⁷ The current parcel boundaries of the park, which corresponds to the historic park area, encompasses the area initially set aside for recreational facilities and later used by the Hispanic community.

- **Ineligible Properties/Districts**

None.

- **Recommendations for Further Study**

Evaluations of NRHP eligibility can be made from existing project information and the findings of the intensive-level survey, as documented in this report. No further work is recommended at this time.

Determination of Section 106 Effects Recommendations

- **Direct Effects**

Information regarding direct effects to the NRHP-eligible property is included in the reconnaissance-level HRSR.

- **Indirect, Cumulative or Reasonable Foreseeable Effects**

Information regarding indirect, cumulative or reasonable foreseeable effects to the NRHP-eligible property is included in the reconnaissance-level HRSR.

U.S. DOT Section 4(f) Applicability Statement

In the intensive survey area, the proposed project would not result in a use of any Section 4(f)-protected properties for transportation purposes and would not adversely affect properties under Section 106. Therefore, Section 4(f) is not applicable.

⁶⁷ National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*, 1997, 56, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB16A-Complete.pdf>.

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Appendix A: Project Information and ROW Information

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- [WPD Section I - Project Definition](#)
- [WPD Section II - Tool](#)
- [WPD Section III - Project Work Plan](#)
- [WPD Section IV - Findings](#)

[Archived WPD I](#)

Print this Page

Project Definition

Project Name:

CSJ: - -

Anticipated Environmental Classification:

Is this an FHWA project that normally requires an EIS per 23 CFR 771.115(a)?



Project Association(s)

Auto Associate CSJ from DCIS

Manually Associate CSJ:

Add

CSJ	DCIS Funding	DCIS Number	Env Classification	DCIS Classification	Main or Associate	Doc Tracked In	Actions
CSJ:091404341	Federal,State	F()	EIS	CSD	Associate	Main	
CSJ:001513433	Federal,State	F()	EIS	CSD	Associate	Main	
CSJ:001513432	Federal,State	F()	EIS	BWR	Associate	Main	
CSJ:001513423	Federal,State	F()	EIS	WF	Associate	Main	
CSJ:001513428	Federal,State	F()	EIS	FOI	Associate	Main	
CSJ:001513399	State	ROW 15-13-399	EIS	ROW	Associate	Main	



DCIS Project Funding and Location

Funding

DCIS Funding Type:

☒ Federal

☒ State

☐ Local

☐ Private

Location

DCIS Project Number:

Highway:

District:

County:

Project Limit -- From:

Project Limit -- To:

Begin Latitude: + .

Begin Longitude: - .

End Latitude: + .

End Longitude: - .



DCIS & P6 Letting Dates

DCIS District:

DCIS Approved:

DCIS Actual:

P6 Ready To Let:

P6 Proposed Letting:



DCIS Project Description

Type of Work:

Layman's Description:

WIDEN ROAD - ADD LANES

DCIS Project Classification:

Design Standard: 4R - New Location and Reconstruction

Roadway Functional Classification: 1 - Interstate

☐ Jurisdiction

No

Does the project cross a state boundary, or require a new Presidential Permit or modification of an existing Presidential Permit?

Who is the lead agency responsible for the approval of the entire project?

☒ FHWA - Assigned to TxDOT
 ☐ TxDOT - No Federal Funding
 ☐ FHWA - Not Assigned to TxDOT

TXDOT

Who is the project sponsor as defined by 43 TAC 2.7?

No

Is a local government's or a private developer's own staff or consultant preparing the CE documentation, EA or EIS?

Yes

Does the project require any federal permit, license, or approval?

☒ USACE
 ☐ IBWC
 ☐ USCG
 ☒ NPS
 ☒ IAJR
 ☐ Other

No

Does the project occur, in part or in total, on federal or tribal lands?

☐ Environmental Clearance Project Description

Project Area

Typical Depth of Impacts: 26 (Feet)

Maximum Depth of Impacts: 80 (Feet)

New ROW Required: 50 (Acres)

New Perm. Easement Required: 0 (Acres) New Temp. Easement Required: 3 (Acres)

Project Description

Describe Limits of All Activities:

TxDOT is proposing improvements to I-35 from US290E to US290W/SH71 in Travis County (~8 miles in length).

The proposed improvements include the removal of the existing I-35 decks from Airport Blvd. to MLK Jr. Blvd., lowering the roadway, and adding two HOV managed lanes in each direction. One alternative would add direct connectors at I-35/US 290E. The project will also reconstruct east-west cross-street bridges, add shared-use paths (SUP), and make additional safety and mobility improvements within the project limits.

TxDOT, in coordination with the City of Austin and the University of Texas (UT), is designing the project to accommodate potential deck plaza locations that would cover sections of the main and HOV lanes of I-35 and provide community enhancement opportunities in those areas. The City is currently evaluating potential deck plazas between Cesar Chavez St. and 8th St. UT is evaluating potential deck cap areas between Dean Keeton St. and 15th St. In addition, "stiches," or bridges with enhanced (widened) pedestrian and bicycle accommodations and amenities, are being evaluated at the following locations: the CapMetro Red Line crossing south of Airport Blvd., Wilshire Blvd., 38th ½ St., 32nd St., 12th St., 11th St., Holly St., and Woodland Ave.

In addition, this project will make improvements to the drainage system including potential drainage tunnels and outfall sites. Currently, TxDOT is proposing major drainage systems along and

Describe Project Setting:

The proposed project location is in an urban setting. The existing roadway experiences high traffic volume throughout the day, as I-35 is one of only three north-south-oriented controlled-access facilities in the Austin metropolitan area.

Land use in the vicinity of the project area is highly developed and comprised of a variety of property types including commercial (large shopping and office/retail centers, car dealerships, hotels/motels, restaurants, municipal buildings), churches, hospitals/health care providers, schools, parks, and residential (single-family residential and multi-family apartment and condominium complexes). There are a few undeveloped parcels; however, none are being used for cropland, pasture, or range land.

Eight stream features cross the project area and include two tributaries of Tannehill Branch (intermittent), Boggy Creek (intermittent flow regime), Lady Bird Lake (perennial), two unnamed tributaries of the Colorado River/Lady Bird Lake (one perennial and one ephemeral), and two tributaries of Blunn Creek (one ephemeral and one intermittent).

Vegetation in the project area consists of maintained roadside grasses and forbs within existing ROW. Landscaped grasses, forbs, and shrubs are located within developed areas. In undeveloped areas, vegetation consists of disturbed pasture, Ashe juniper/live oak woodlands, and narrow riparian areas.

Cemeteries adjacent to the project area include Mt. Calvary, Oakwood, and Assumption.

There are Section 4(f)- and Section 6(f)-protected parkland properties adjacent to the project limits, including: Northwest Greenway along Philomena Street; Swede Hill Pocket Park; Waller Creek Greenbelt; Waterloo Greenway; Waller Beach at Town Lake Metro Park (Section 6(f)); Sir Swante Palm Neighborhood Park; Edward Rendon Sr. Metro Park at Festival Beach (Section 6(f)); Norwood Tract at Town Lake Metro Park; and Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike 1300 Riverside Easement. There are also some historic sites that may trigger individual Section 4(f) evaluations, such as the Haster House, Elgin-Butler Brick Company Main Office, Dura Tune Service Station and Ann and Roy Butler Hike and Bike Trail.

There are adjacent properties that are listed in or are possibly eligible for the NRHP (i.e. Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Elgin-Butler Brick Company Main Office, Palm Park, etc.).

This project is located in USFWS karst zone 3B, but it is not located within the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone.

There is potential freshwater mussel habitat in the Colorado River near Longhorn Dam.

Describe Existing Facility:

The existing I-35 roadway from US290E to US 290W/SH71 is located in an urban area with adjacent commercial, residential, institutional, governmental, and parks/open space properties. Within the proposed project limits, I-35 is an access-controlled interstate highway. Beginning at the southern limit, US 290W/SH 71, the roadway typically has three to four, 12-foot-wide mainlanes (concrete barrier-separated) with 4- to 12-foot-wide inside shoulders, 10- or 12-foot-wide outside shoulders, and two to three, 11- or 12-foot-wide frontage road lanes with curb and gutter in each direction. From Lady Bird Lake to 15th St., I-35 generally includes three 12-foot-wide mainlanes in each direction with auxiliary lanes between some of the ramps. North of 15th St., the roadway has four mainlanes in each direction and includes the upper/lower deck split just north of MLK Jr. Blvd. with a continuation of the upper decks to north of Airport Blvd. From Airport Blvd. to US 290E, I-35 includes four barrier-separated mainlanes in each direction. The roadway here typically has 2- to 6-foot-wide inside shoulders, 10-foot-wide outside shoulders, and two to four, 11- or 12-foot-wide frontage road lanes with curb and gutter in each direction. US 290E, between I-35 and Cameron Rd., is a four-lane freeway with 12-foot-wide mainlanes in each direction and 6-foot inside and 5'-20' outside shoulders. Frontage roads are 2 to 4 lanes in each direction and direct connector ramps provide access to and from the I-35 general purpose lanes.

Sidewalks exist in most, but not all, locations throughout the project area and SUP are located within the project area in "downtown" Austin, defined as between MLK Jr. Blvd. and Holly St. Drainage along the roadway (mainlanes and frontage roads) is provided by storm sewer networks and

Describe Proposed Facility:

~8 m in length - 1,500 ft north of US290E to 1,000 ft south of SH71. Removal of decks (Airport to MLK), lowering roadway, adding 2 HOV lanes in each direction, reconstructing E-W cross-streets, adding SUP.

Construction access/staging needed within parkland: Waller Beach (6(f)); Edward Rendon (6(f)); Norwood Tract; & Ann/Roy Butler Hike & Bike Easement.

Improvements to drainage include new drainage systems & outfalls. Project lowers roadway profile below existing grade north/south of Lady Bird Lake, which severs drainage systems connected to Harpers Branch, Lady Bird Lake, Colorado River, Waller Creek, & Boggy Creek. New systems needed to drain runoff severed from existing outfalls: storm drains along both FRs & MLs (Harper's Branch outfall to Oltorf); tunnel east I35 (Lady Bird Lake to 15th); tunnel west I35 (Waller Creek outfalls [3rd, 9th, & 15th] to Hancock Center), tunnel down Cesar Chavez (CO River downstream of Longhorn Dam to I35); tunnel Clarkson Branch to I35 (via 38th & north to Hancock Center); & storm drain Boggy Creek to the west of I35 (via a crossing north of Airport).

Based on alternatives screening process, TxDOT is analyzing 2 build alts. and the No Build in the EIS:

Alt. 2

Would the project add capacity?

Transportation Planning

Is the project within an MPO's boundaries?

Does the project meet the definition for a grouped category for planning and programming purposes?

The project is located in area.

This status applies to:

☐ CO - Carbon Monoxide

☐ O3 - Ozone

☐ NO2 - Nitrogen Dioxide

☐ PM10 - Particulate

☐ PM2.5 - Particulate

Environmental Clearance Information

Environmental Clearance Date:

Environmental LOA Date:

Closed Date:

Archived Date:

Approved Environmental Classification:

Project Contacts

Last
Updated Tricia Bruck-Hoyt-C
By:

Last Updated Date: 09/16/2022 04:59:15

Appendix B: Tabular Inventory of Surveyed Properties

Resource No.	Address/ Location	Function/ Sub-function	Architectural Style	Date(s)	Description/Comments	Integrity Considerations	NRHP Eligibility
404A	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.26272, -97.73673	RECREATION/ park	No Style	1929	<p>Palm Park is located in the southeast corner of downtown Austin along lower Waller Creek. The landscape is generally flat, open, and grassy with scattered deciduous trees located along the I-35 southbound frontage road and bordering a concrete pedestrian path that winds through the park landscape. A thicker cover of deciduous trees and dense vegetation lines Waller Creek. The creek carves out a ravine with relatively steep banks, especially on its south side. Landscaping features include two modern metal picnic tables, one bike rack, and several square concrete trash receptacles along the walkways. A few modern light standards are located in the Palm School parking lot, adjacent to the park. Low wood fence posts connected by a single metal chain line some portions of the park perimeter.</p> <p>Palm Park contains five contributing resources—Palm Park site (Resource 404A), Shelter (404B), Swimming Pool (404C), Concrete Steps (404D) and Tetherball Court (404E)—and two noncontributing resources: Waller Creek Greenbelt Trail (404F) and Playground (404G). As a component resource of Palm Park constructed during the park's period of significance, Resource 404A is significant under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage. It does not possess historical or architectural significance within the historic contexts necessary for NRHP eligibility under Criteria B or C.</p>	The only significant known alteration to the park landscape has been the removal of tennis courts c.2010 that were formerly situated north of the swimming pool. Modern development in downtown Austin surrounding the park has somewhat diminished its integrity of setting. However, integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are retained. Its integrity is sufficient as a contributing resource to the overall NRHP-eligible Palm Park.	Contributing to NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/ Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible

Resource No.	Address/ Location	Function/ Sub-function	Architectural Style	Date(s)	Description/Comments	Integrity Considerations	NRHP Eligibility
404B	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.26267, -97.73657	RECREATION/ park shelter	Rustic	1933	<p>The shelter is located at the eastern side of the park. It was likely designed by architect Hugo Kuehne and completed in 1933. The one-story, Rustic-style building has a rectangular plan and dogtrot design with small, square, enclosed massings to the north and south connected by an open breezeway. The shelter is constructed of uncut fieldstone and features a castellated parapet around the roofline. It has arched doorways with replacement doors; the door openings feature arched fieldstone surrounds with keystones. Pairs of small arches above the doorways originally had louvered screens and are now filled in with stone. Additional window openings to the north and south, accented with fieldstone lintels and sills, now hold wooden replacement vents. Along the west elevation, the walls of the towers extend in decorative catslide wingwalls that terminate in square stone pillars. The shelter is on a concrete pad that extends to the west and is used as a multipurpose court.</p> <p>As a component resource of Palm Park constructed during the park's period of significance, Resource 404B is significant under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage. It does not possess historical or architectural significance within the historic contexts necessary for NRHP eligibility under Criteria B or C.</p>	<p>Alterations include door and window replacements, an accessible ramp with modern metal railing on the north restroom tower, and metal bars with lighting mounted along the open breezeway framing. The breezeway may have originally been covered. Due to alterations, integrity of design and workmanship are diminished. However, integrity of location, materials, setting, feeling, and association are retained. Its integrity is sufficient as a contributing resource to the overall Palm Park.</p>	<p>Contributing to NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/ Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible</p>

Resource No.	Address/ Location	Function/ Sub-function	Architectural Style	Date(s)	Description/Comments	Integrity Considerations	NRHP Eligibility
404C	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.26264, -97.73708	RECREATION/ swimming pool	No Style	1933	<p>The Palm Park swimming pool is located at the center of the park, west of the shelter building and southeast of Waller Creek. It measures approximately 75 feet by 37 feet. Currently closed and surrounded with chain-link fencing, the pool is bordered by concrete that is struck to look like curved stone. It is covered with a tarp; however, three sets of metal steps with handrails are visible rising around its perimeter. Two metal benches are evenly spaced north of the pool and one is located to the west. A concrete base that may have once held a diving board is also located on the west end of the pool.</p> <p>As a component resource of Palm Park constructed during the park's period of significance, Resource 404C is significant under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage. It does not possess historical or architectural significance within the historic contexts necessary for NRHP eligibility under Criteria B or C.</p>	The swimming pool does not display any obvious alterations. Due to its closure since 2010, integrity of feeling and association are diminished. However, integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and setting are retained. Its integrity is sufficient as a contributing resource to the overall Palm Park.	Contributing to NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/ Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible
404D	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.262630, -97.736399	RECREATION/ steps	No Style	c.1933	<p>A small set of concrete steps provides access to the I-35 southbound frontage road sidewalk, which generally follows the same alignment as former East Avenue and therefore may be original to the park.</p> <p>As a component resource of Palm Park constructed during the park's period of significance, Resource 404D is significant under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage. It does not possess historical or architectural significance within the historic contexts necessary for NRHP eligibility under Criteria B or C.</p>	There are no obvious alterations to the steps and their integrity is sufficient as a contributing resource to the overall Palm Park.	Contributing to NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/ Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible

Resource No.	Address/ Location	Function/ Sub-function	Architectural Style	Date(s)	Description/Comments	Integrity Considerations	NRHP Eligibility
404E	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.262570, - 97.736600	RECREATION/ tetherball court	No Style	c.1970	The tetherball court is a small circular concrete pad with metal pole. There is currently no tetherball attached to the pole. It is located in the eastern portion of Palm Park, just south of the shelter. As a component resource of Palm Park constructed during the park's period of significance, Resource 404E is significant under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage. It does not possess historical or architectural significance within the historic contexts necessary for NRHP eligibility under Criteria B or C.	The tetherball court does not display obvious alterations and its integrity is sufficient as a contributing resource to the overall Palm Park.	Contributing to NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/ Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible
404F	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.262992, - 97.737039	RECREATION/ multi-use trail	No Style	1981	The Waller Creek Greenbelt Trail, this portion of which was completed by 1981, is part of a larger trail that extends north and southwest on either side of the park. Although the trail generally follows Waller Creek, the Palm Park portion deviates from the creek bank to meander through the park landscape. The trail is surfaced with concrete. Resource 404F was constructed after Palm Park's period of significance and is therefore noncontributing to the park.	There are no visible alterations. Resource 404F retains all aspects of integrity.	Non-contributing to NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/ Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible
404G	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.262460, - 97.736682	RECREATION/ playground	No Style	2003	Modern playground equipment is located in the southeast corner of the park. It rests in a mulch bed bordered by concrete curbs. Resource 404G was constructed after Palm Park's period of significance and is therefore noncontributing to the park.	There are no visible alterations. Resource 404G retains all aspects of integrity.	Non-contributing to NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/ Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible

Appendix C: Survey Forms for All Surveyed Properties

Date:	January 14, 2022
Resource No:	404A
Project Location:	Austin, Travis County, I-35: US 290 East to US 290 West/SH 71
Project Name and CSJ:	Capital Express Central – Palm Park Intensive Survey; 0015-13-388
Address, Lat/Long:	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.26272, -97.73673
Function/Sub-function:	RECREATION/park
Construction Date:	1929
Architectural Style/Form:	No Style
NRHP Eligibility	Contributing to the NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible.
Description/Comments:	<p>Palm Park is located in the southeast corner of downtown Austin along lower Waller Creek. The landscape is generally flat, open, and grassy with scattered deciduous trees located along the I-35 southbound frontage road and bordering a concrete pedestrian path that winds through the park landscape. A thicker cover of deciduous trees and dense vegetation lines Waller Creek. The creek carves out a ravine with relatively steep banks, especially on its south side. Landscaping features include two modern metal picnic tables, one bike rack, and several square concrete trash receptacles along the walkways. A few modern light standards are located in the Palm School parking lot, adjacent to the park. Low wood fence posts connected by a single metal chain line some portions of the park perimeter.</p> <p>Palm Park contains five contributing resources—Palm Park site (Resource 404A), Shelter (404B), Swimming Pool (404C), Concrete Steps (404D) and Tetherball Court (404E)—and two noncontributing resources: Waller Creek Greenbelt Trail (404F) and Playground (404G). As a component resource of Palm Park constructed during the park's period of significance, Resource 404A is significant under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage. It does not possess historical or architectural significance within the historic contexts necessary for NRHP eligibility under Criteria B or C.</p>
Integrity Considerations:	The only significant known alteration to the park landscape has been the removal of tennis courts c.2010 that were formerly situated north of the swimming pool. Modern development in downtown Austin surrounding the park has somewhat diminished its integrity of setting. However, integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are retained. Its integrity is sufficient as a contributing resource to the overall NRHP-eligible Palm Park.



Overall view facing west.

Survey Date:	January 14, 2022
Resource No:	404A
Project Location:	Austin, Travis County, I-35: US 290 East to US 290 West/SH 71
Project Name and CSJ:	Capital Express Central – Palm Park Intensive Survey; 0015-13-388
Address, Lat/Long:	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.26272, -97.73673
Function/Sub-function:	RECREATION/park
Construction Date:	1929
Architectural Style/Form:	No Style
NRHP Eligibility	Contributing to the NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible.
Description/Comments:	<p>Palm Park is located in the southeast corner of downtown Austin along lower Waller Creek. The landscape is generally flat, open, and grassy with scattered deciduous trees located along the I-35 southbound frontage road and bordering a concrete pedestrian path that winds through the park landscape. A thicker cover of deciduous trees and dense vegetation lines Waller Creek. The creek carves out a ravine with relatively steep banks, especially on its south side. Landscaping features include two modern metal picnic tables, one bike rack, and several square concrete trash receptacles along the walkways. A few modern light standards are located in the Palm School parking lot, adjacent to the park. Low wood fence posts connected by a single metal chain line some portions of the park perimeter.</p> <p>Palm Park contains five contributing resources—Palm Park site (Resource 404A), Shelter (404B), Swimming Pool (404C), Concrete Steps (404D) and Tetherball Court (404E)—and two noncontributing resources: Waller Creek Greenbelt Trail (404F) and Playground (404G). As a component resource of Palm Park constructed during the park's period of significance, Resource 404A is significant under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage. It does not possess historical or architectural significance within the historic contexts necessary for NRHP eligibility under Criteria B or C.</p>
Integrity Considerations:	The only significant known alteration to the park landscape has been the removal of tennis courts c.2010 that were formerly situated north of the swimming pool. Modern development in downtown Austin surrounding the park has somewhat diminished its integrity of setting. However, integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are retained. Its integrity is sufficient as a contributing resource to the overall NRHP-eligible Palm Park.



Overall view facing northwest.

Survey Date:	January 14, 2022
Resource No:	404A
Project Location:	Austin, Travis County, I-35: US 290 East to US 290 West/SH 71
Project Name and CSJ:	Capital Express Central – Palm Park Intensive Survey; 0015-13-388
Address, Lat/Long:	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.26272, -97.73673
Function/Sub-function:	RECREATION/park
Construction Date:	1929
Architectural Style/Form:	No Style
NRHP Eligibility	Contributing to the NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible.
Description/Comments:	<p>Palm Park is located in the southeast corner of downtown Austin along lower Waller Creek. The landscape is generally flat, open, and grassy with scattered deciduous trees located along the I-35 southbound frontage road and bordering a concrete pedestrian path that winds through the park landscape. A thicker cover of deciduous trees and dense vegetation lines Waller Creek. The creek carves out a ravine with relatively steep banks, especially on its south side. Landscaping features include two modern metal picnic tables, one bike rack, and several square concrete trash receptacles along the walkways. A few modern light standards are located in the Palm School parking lot, adjacent to the park. Low wood fence posts connected by a single metal chain line some portions of the park perimeter.</p> <p>Palm Park contains five contributing resources—Palm Park site (Resource 404A), Shelter (404B), Swimming Pool (404C), Concrete Steps (404D) and Tetherball Court (404E)—and two noncontributing resources: Waller Creek Greenbelt Trail (404F) and Playground (404G). As a component resource of Palm Park constructed during the park's period of significance, Resource 404A is significant under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage. It does not possess historical or architectural significance within the historic contexts necessary for NRHP eligibility under Criteria B or C.</p>
Integrity Considerations:	The only significant known alteration to the park landscape has been the removal of tennis courts c.2010 that were formerly situated north of the swimming pool. Modern development in downtown Austin surrounding the park has somewhat diminished its integrity of setting. However, integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are retained. Its integrity is sufficient as a contributing resource to the overall NRHP-eligible Palm Park.



View facing north with I-35 southbound frontage road to the east.

Survey Date:	January 14, 2022
Resource No:	404A
Project Location:	Austin, Travis County, I-35: US 290 East to US 290 West/SH 71
Project Name and CSJ:	Capital Express Central – Palm Park Intensive Survey; 0015-13-388
Address, Lat/Long:	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.26272, -97.73673
Function/Sub-function:	RECREATION/park
Construction Date:	1929
Architectural Style/Form:	No Style
NRHP Eligibility	Contributing to the NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible.
Description/Comments:	<p>Palm Park is located in the southeast corner of downtown Austin along lower Waller Creek. The landscape is generally flat, open, and grassy with scattered deciduous trees located along the I-35 southbound frontage road and bordering a concrete pedestrian path that winds through the park landscape. A thicker cover of deciduous trees and dense vegetation lines Waller Creek. The creek carves out a ravine with relatively steep banks, especially on its south side. Landscaping features include two modern metal picnic tables, one bike rack, and several square concrete trash receptacles along the walkways. A few modern light standards are located in the Palm School parking lot, adjacent to the park. Low wood fence posts connected by a single metal chain line some portions of the park perimeter.</p> <p>Palm Park contains five contributing resources—Palm Park site (Resource 404A), Shelter (404B), Swimming Pool (404C), Concrete Steps (404D) and Tetherball Court (404E)—and two noncontributing resources: Waller Creek Greenbelt Trail (404F) and Playground (404G). As a component resource of Palm Park constructed during the park's period of significance, Resource 404A is significant under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage. It does not possess historical or architectural significance within the historic contexts necessary for NRHP eligibility under Criteria B or C.</p>
Integrity Considerations:	The only significant known alteration to the park landscape has been the removal of tennis courts c.2010 that were formerly situated north of the swimming pool. Modern development in downtown Austin surrounding the park has somewhat diminished its integrity of setting. However, integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are retained. Its integrity is sufficient as a contributing resource to the overall NRHP-eligible Palm Park.



View of open field facing northwest.

Survey Date:	January 14, 2022
Resource No:	404A
Project Location:	Austin, Travis County, I-35: US 290 East to US 290 West/SH 71
Project Name and CSJ:	Capital Express Central – Palm Park Intensive Survey; 0015-13-388
Address, Lat/Long:	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.26272, -97.73673
Function/Sub-function:	RECREATION/park
Construction Date:	1929
Architectural Style/Form:	No Style
NRHP Eligibility	Contributing to the NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible.
Description/Comments:	<p>Palm Park is located in the southeast corner of downtown Austin along lower Waller Creek. The landscape is generally flat, open, and grassy with scattered deciduous trees located along the I-35 southbound frontage road and bordering a concrete pedestrian path that winds through the park landscape. A thicker cover of deciduous trees and dense vegetation lines Waller Creek. The creek carves out a ravine with relatively steep banks, especially on its south side. Landscaping features include two modern metal picnic tables, one bike rack, and several square concrete trash receptacles along the walkways. A few modern light standards are located in the Palm School parking lot, adjacent to the park. Low wood fence posts connected by a single metal chain line some portions of the park perimeter.</p> <p>Palm Park contains five contributing resources—Palm Park site (Resource 404A), Shelter (404B), Swimming Pool (404C), Concrete Steps (404D) and Tetherball Court (404E)—and two noncontributing resources: Waller Creek Greenbelt Trail (404F) and Playground (404G). As a component resource of Palm Park constructed during the park's period of significance, Resource 404A is significant under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage. It does not possess historical or architectural significance within the historic contexts necessary for NRHP eligibility under Criteria B or C.</p>
Integrity Considerations:	The only significant known alteration to the park landscape has been the removal of tennis courts c.2010 that were formerly situated north of the swimming pool. Modern development in downtown Austin surrounding the park has somewhat diminished its integrity of setting. However, integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are retained. Its integrity is sufficient as a contributing resource to the overall NRHP-eligible Palm Park.



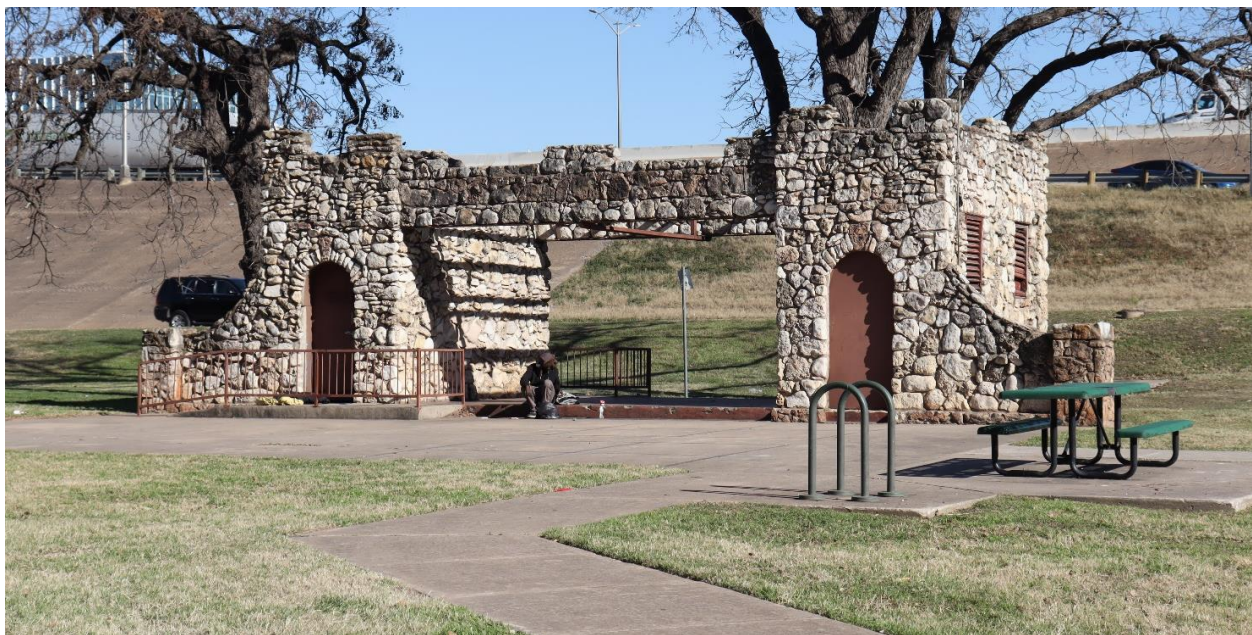
View facing northeast.

Survey Date:	January 14, 2022
Resource No:	404A
Project Location:	Austin, Travis County, I-35: US 290 East to US 290 West/SH 71
Project Name and CSJ:	Capital Express Central – Palm Park Intensive Survey; 0015-13-388
Address, Lat/Long:	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.26272, -97.73673
Function/Sub-function:	RECREATION/park
Construction Date:	1929
Architectural Style/Form:	No Style
NRHP Eligibility	Contributing to the NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible.
Description/Comments:	<p>Palm Park is located in the southeast corner of downtown Austin along lower Waller Creek. The landscape is generally flat, open, and grassy with scattered deciduous trees located along the I-35 southbound frontage road and bordering a concrete pedestrian path that winds through the park landscape. A thicker cover of deciduous trees and dense vegetation lines Waller Creek. The creek carves out a ravine with relatively steep banks, especially on its south side. Landscaping features include two modern metal picnic tables, one bike rack, and several square concrete trash receptacles along the walkways. A few modern light standards are located in the Palm School parking lot, adjacent to the park. Low wood fence posts connected by a single metal chain line some portions of the park perimeter.</p> <p>Palm Park contains five contributing resources—Palm Park site (Resource 404A), Shelter (404B), Swimming Pool (404C), Concrete Steps (404D) and Tetherball Court (404E)—and two noncontributing resources: Waller Creek Greenbelt Trail (404F) and Playground (404G). As a component resource of Palm Park constructed during the park's period of significance, Resource 404A is significant under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage. It does not possess historical or architectural significance within the historic contexts necessary for NRHP eligibility under Criteria B or C.</p>
Integrity Considerations:	The only significant known alteration to the park landscape has been the removal of tennis courts c.2010 that were formerly situated north of the swimming pool. Modern development in downtown Austin surrounding the park has somewhat diminished its integrity of setting. However, integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are retained. Its integrity is sufficient as a contributing resource to the overall NRHP-eligible Palm Park.



Detail of picnic table and bike rack, view facing southeast.

Survey Date:	January 14, 2022
Resource No:	404B
Project Location:	Austin, Travis County, I-35: US 290 East to US 290 West/SH 71
Project Name and CSJ:	Capital Express Central – Palm Park Intensive Survey; 0015-13-388
Address, Lat/Long:	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.26267, -97.73657
Function/Sub-function:	RECREATION/park shelter
Construction Date:	1933
Architectural Style/Form:	Rustic
NRHP Eligibility	Contributing to the NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible.
Description/Comments:	<p>The shelter is located at the eastern side of the park. It was likely designed by architect Hugo Kuehne and completed in 1933. The one-story, Rustic-style building has a rectangular plan and dogtrot design with small, square, enclosed massings to the north and south connected by an open breezeway. The shelter is constructed of uncut fieldstone and features a castellated parapet around the roofline. It has arched doorways with replacement doors; the door openings feature arched fieldstone surrounds with keystones. Pairs of small arches above the doorways originally had louvered screens and are now filled in with stone. Additional window openings to the north and south, accented with fieldstone lintels and sills, now hold wooden replacement vents. Along the west elevation, the walls of the towers extend in decorative catslide wingwalls that terminate in square stone pillars. The shelter is on a concrete pad that extends to the west and is used as a multipurpose court.</p> <p>As a component resource of Palm Park constructed during the park's period of significance, Resource 404B is significant under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage. It does not possess historical or architectural significance within the historic contexts necessary for NRHP eligibility under Criteria B or C.</p>
Integrity Considerations:	Alterations include door and window replacements, an accessible ramp with modern metal railing on the north restroom tower, and metal bars with lighting mounted along the open breezeway framing. The breezeway may have originally been covered. Due to alterations, integrity of design and workmanship are diminished. However, integrity of location, materials, setting, feeling, and association are retained. Its integrity is sufficient as a contributing resource to the overall Palm Park.



Overview of shelter, west and south elevations, view facing northeast.

Survey Date:	January 14, 2022
Resource No:	404B
Project Location:	Austin, Travis County, I-35: US 290 East to US 290 West/SH 71
Project Name and CSJ:	Capital Express Central – Palm Park Intensive Survey; 0015-13-388
Address, Lat/Long:	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.26267, -97.73657
Function/Sub-function:	RECREATION/park shelter
Construction Date:	1933
Architectural Style/Form:	Rustic
NRHP Eligibility	Contributing to the NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible.
Description/Comments:	<p>The shelter is located at the eastern side of the park. It was likely designed by architect Hugo Kuehne and completed in 1933. The one-story, Rustic-style building has a rectangular plan and dogtrot design with small, square, enclosed massings to the north and south connected by an open breezeway. The shelter is constructed of uncut fieldstone and features a castellated parapet around the roofline. It has arched doorways with replacement doors; the door openings feature arched fieldstone surrounds with keystones. Pairs of small arches above the doorways originally had louvered screens and are now filled in with stone. Additional window openings to the north and south, accented with fieldstone lintels and sills, now hold wooden replacement vents. Along the west elevation, the walls of the towers extend in decorative catslide wingwalls that terminate in square stone pillars. The shelter is on a concrete pad that extends to the west and is used as a multipurpose court.</p> <p>As a component resource of Palm Park constructed during the park's period of significance, Resource 404B is significant under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage. It does not possess historical or architectural significance within the historic contexts necessary for NRHP eligibility under Criteria B or C.</p>
Integrity Considerations:	Alterations include door and window replacements, an accessible ramp with modern metal railing on the north restroom tower, and metal bars with lighting mounted along the open breezeway framing. The breezeway may have originally been covered. Due to alterations, integrity of design and workmanship are diminished. However, integrity of location, materials, setting, feeling, and association are retained. Its integrity is sufficient as a contributing resource to the overall Palm Park.



Overview of shelter, east and north elevations, view facing southwest.

Survey Date:	January 14, 2022
Resource No:	404B
Project Location:	Austin, Travis County, I-35: US 290 East to US 290 West/SH 71
Project Name and CSJ:	Capital Express Central – Palm Park Intensive Survey; 0015-13-388
Address, Lat/Long:	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.26267, -97.73657
Function/Sub-function:	RECREATION/park shelter
Construction Date:	1933
Architectural Style/Form:	Rustic
NRHP Eligibility	Contributing to the NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible.
Description/Comments:	<p>The shelter is located at the eastern side of the park. It was likely designed by architect Hugo Kuehne and completed in 1933. The one-story, Rustic-style building has a rectangular plan and dogtrot design with small, square, enclosed massings to the north and south connected by an open breezeway. The shelter is constructed of uncut fieldstone and features a castellated parapet around the roofline. It has arched doorways with replacement doors; the door openings feature arched fieldstone surrounds with keystones. Pairs of small arches above the doorways originally had louvered screens and are now filled in with stone. Additional window openings to the north and south, accented with fieldstone lintels and sills, now hold wooden replacement vents. Along the west elevation, the walls of the towers extend in decorative catslide wingwalls that terminate in square stone pillars. The shelter is on a concrete pad that extends to the west and is used as a multipurpose court.</p> <p>As a component resource of Palm Park constructed during the park's period of significance, Resource 404B is significant under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage. It does not possess historical or architectural significance within the historic contexts necessary for NRHP eligibility under Criteria B or C.</p>
Integrity Considerations:	Alterations include door and window replacements, an accessible ramp with modern metal railing on the north restroom tower, and metal bars with lighting mounted along the open breezeway framing. The breezeway may have originally been covered. Due to alterations, integrity of design and workmanship are diminished. However, integrity of location, materials, setting, feeling, and association are retained. Its integrity is sufficient as a contributing resource to the overall Palm Park.



Detail of south restroom tower, east elevation, view facing west.

Survey Date:	January 14, 2022
Resource No:	404B
Project Location:	Austin, Travis County, I-35: US 290 East to US 290 West/SH 71
Project Name and CSJ:	Capital Express Central – Palm Park Intensive Survey; 0015-13-388
Address, Lat/Long:	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.26267, -97.73657
Function/Sub-function:	RECREATION/park shelter
Construction Date:	1933
Architectural Style/Form:	Rustic
NRHP Eligibility	Contributing to the NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible.
Description/Comments:	<p>The shelter is located at the eastern side of the park. It was likely designed by architect Hugo Kuehne and completed in 1933. The one-story, Rustic-style building has a rectangular plan and dogtrot design with small, square, enclosed massings to the north and south connected by an open breezeway. The shelter is constructed of uncut fieldstone and features a castellated parapet around the roofline. It has arched doorways with replacement doors; the door openings feature arched fieldstone surrounds with keystones. Pairs of small arches above the doorways originally had louvered screens and are now filled in with stone. Additional window openings to the north and south, accented with fieldstone lintels and sills, now hold wooden replacement vents. Along the west elevation, the walls of the towers extend in decorative catslide wingwalls that terminate in square stone pillars. The shelter is on a concrete pad that extends to the west and is used as a multipurpose court.</p> <p>As a component resource of Palm Park constructed during the park's period of significance, Resource 404B is significant under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage. It does not possess historical or architectural significance within the historic contexts necessary for NRHP eligibility under Criteria B or C.</p>
Integrity Considerations:	Alterations include door and window replacements, an accessible ramp with modern metal railing on the north restroom tower, and metal bars with lighting mounted along the open breezeway framing. The breezeway may have originally been covered. Due to alterations, integrity of design and workmanship are diminished. However, integrity of location, materials, setting, feeling, and association are retained. Its integrity is sufficient as a contributing resource to the overall Palm Park.



Detail of stonework and window openings on south elevation, view facing north.

Survey Date:	January 14, 2022
Resource No:	404B
Project Location:	Austin, Travis County, I-35: US 290 East to US 290 West/SH 71
Project Name and CSJ:	Capital Express Central – Palm Park Intensive Survey; 0015-13-388
Address, Lat/Long:	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.26267, -97.73657
Function/Sub-function:	RECREATION/park shelter
Construction Date:	1933
Architectural Style/Form:	Rustic
NRHP Eligibility	Contributing to the NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible.
Description/Comments:	<p>The shelter is located at the eastern side of the park. It was likely designed by architect Hugo Kuehne and completed in 1933. The one-story, Rustic-style building has a rectangular plan and dogtrot design with small, square, enclosed massings to the north and south connected by an open breezeway. The shelter is constructed of uncut fieldstone and features a castellated parapet around the roofline. It has arched doorways with replacement doors; the door openings feature arched fieldstone surrounds with keystones. Pairs of small arches above the doorways originally had louvered screens and are now filled in with stone. Additional window openings to the north and south, accented with fieldstone lintels and sills, now hold wooden replacement vents. Along the west elevation, the walls of the towers extend in decorative catslide wingwalls that terminate in square stone pillars. The shelter is on a concrete pad that extends to the west and is used as a multipurpose court.</p> <p>As a component resource of Palm Park constructed during the park's period of significance, Resource 404B is significant under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage. It does not possess historical or architectural significance within the historic contexts necessary for NRHP eligibility under Criteria B or C.</p>
Integrity Considerations:	Alterations include door and window replacements, an accessible ramp with modern metal railing on the north restroom tower, and metal bars with lighting mounted along the open breezeway framing. The breezeway may have originally been covered. Due to alterations, integrity of design and workmanship are diminished. However, integrity of location, materials, setting, feeling, and association are retained. Its integrity is sufficient as a contributing resource to the overall Palm Park.



Detail of breezeway, view facing west.

Survey Date:	January 14, 2022
Resource No:	404C
Project Location:	Austin, Travis County, I-35: US 290 East to US 290 West/SH 71
Project Name and CSJ:	Capital Express Central – Palm Park Intensive Survey; 0015-13-388
Address, Lat/Long:	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.26264, -97.73708
Function/Sub-function:	RECREATION/swimming pool
Construction Date:	1933
Architectural Style/Form:	No Style
NRHP Eligibility	Contributing to the NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible.
Description/Comments:	<p>The Palm Park swimming pool is located at the center of the park, west of the shelter building and southeast of Waller Creek. It measures approximately 75 feet by 37 feet. Currently closed and surrounded with chain-link fencing, the pool is bordered by concrete that is struck to look like curved stone. It is covered with a tarp; however, three sets of metal steps with handrails are visible rising around its perimeter. Two metal benches are evenly spaced north of the pool and one is located to the west. A concrete base that may have once held a diving board is also located on the west end of the pool.</p> <p>As a component resource of Palm Park constructed during the park's period of significance, Resource 404C is significant under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage. It does not possess historical or architectural significance within the historic contexts necessary for NRHP eligibility under Criteria B or C.</p>
Integrity Considerations:	The swimming pool does not display any obvious alterations. Due to its closure since 2010, integrity of feeling and association are diminished. However, integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and setting are retained. Its integrity is sufficient as a contributing resource to the overall Palm Park.



Swimming pool overview, view facing southwest.

Survey Date:	January 14, 2022
Resource No:	404C
Project Location:	Austin, Travis County, I-35: US 290 East to US 290 West/SH 71
Project Name and CSJ:	Capital Express Central – Palm Park Intensive Survey; 0015-13-388
Address, Lat/Long:	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.26264, -97.73708
Function/Sub-function:	RECREATION/swimming pool
Construction Date:	1933
Architectural Style/Form:	No Style
NRHP Eligibility	Contributing to the NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible.
Description/Comments:	<p>The Palm Park swimming pool is located at the center of the park, west of the shelter building and southeast of Waller Creek. It measures approximately 75 feet by 37 feet. Currently closed and surrounded with chain-link fencing, the pool is bordered by concrete that is struck to look like curved stone. It is covered with a tarp; however, three sets of metal steps with handrails are visible rising around its perimeter. Two metal benches are evenly spaced north of the pool and one is located to the west. A concrete base that may have once held a diving board is also located on the west end of the pool.</p> <p>As a component resource of Palm Park constructed during the park's period of significance, Resource 404C is significant under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage. It does not possess historical or architectural significance within the historic contexts necessary for NRHP eligibility under Criteria B or C.</p>
Integrity Considerations:	The swimming pool does not display any obvious alterations. Due to its closure since 2010, integrity of feeling and association are diminished. However, integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and setting are retained. Its integrity is sufficient as a contributing resource to the overall Palm Park.



Swimming pool, view facing northwest.

Survey Date:	January 14, 2022
Resource No:	404D
Project Location:	Austin, Travis County, I-35: US 290 East to US 290 West/SH 71
Project Name and CSJ:	Capital Express Central – Palm Park Intensive Survey; 0015-13-388
Address, Lat/Long:	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.262630, -97.736399
Function/Sub-function:	RECREATION/steps
Construction Date:	c.1933
Architectural Style/Form:	No Style
NRHP Eligibility	Contributing to the NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible.
Description/Comments:	<p>A small set of concrete steps provides access to the I-35 southbound Frontage Road sidewalk, which generally follows the same alignment as former East Avenue and therefore may be original to the park.</p> <p>As a component resource of Palm Park constructed during the park's period of significance, Resource 404D is significant under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage. It does not possess historical or architectural significance within the historic contexts necessary for NRHP eligibility under Criteria B or C.</p>
Integrity Considerations:	There are no obvious alterations to the steps and their integrity is sufficient as a contributing resource to the overall Palm Park.



Concrete steps, view facing east.

Survey Date:	January 14, 2022
Resource No:	404E
Project Location:	Austin, Travis County, I-35: US 290 East to US 290 West/SH 71
Project Name and CSJ:	Capital Express Central – Palm Park Intensive Survey; 0015-13-388
Address, Lat/Long:	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.262570, -97.736600
Function/Sub-function:	RECREATION/tetherball court
Construction Date:	c.1970
Architectural Style/Form:	No Style
NRHP Eligibility	Contributing to the NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible.
Description/Comments:	<p>The tetherball court is a small circular concrete pad with metal pole. There is currently no tetherball attached to the pole. It is located in the eastern portion of Palm Park, just south of the shelter.</p> <p>As a component resource of Palm Park constructed during the park's period of significance, Resource 404E is significant under NRHP Criterion A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage. It does not possess historical or architectural significance within the historic contexts necessary for NRHP eligibility under Criteria B or C.</p>
Integrity Considerations:	The tetherball court does not display obvious alterations and its integrity is sufficient as a contributing resource to the overall Palm Park.



Tetherball court, view facing east.

Survey Date:	January 14, 2022
Resource No:	404F
Project Location:	Austin, Travis County, I-35: US 290 East to US 290 West/SH 71
Project Name and CSJ:	Capital Express Central – Palm Park Intensive Survey; 0015-13-388
Address, Lat/Long:	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.262992, -97.737039
Function/Sub-function:	RECREATION/multi-use trail
Construction Date:	1981
Architectural Style/Form:	No Style
NRHP Eligibility	Noncontributing to the NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible.
Description/Comments:	The Waller Creek Greenbelt Trail, this portion of which was completed by 1981, is part of a larger trail that extends north and southwest on either side of the park. Although the trail generally follows Waller Creek, the Palm Park portion deviates from the creek bank to meander through the park landscape. The trail is surfaced with concrete. Resource 404F was constructed after Palm Park's period of significance and is therefore noncontributing to the park.
Integrity Considerations:	There are no visible alterations. Resource 404F retains all aspects of integrity.



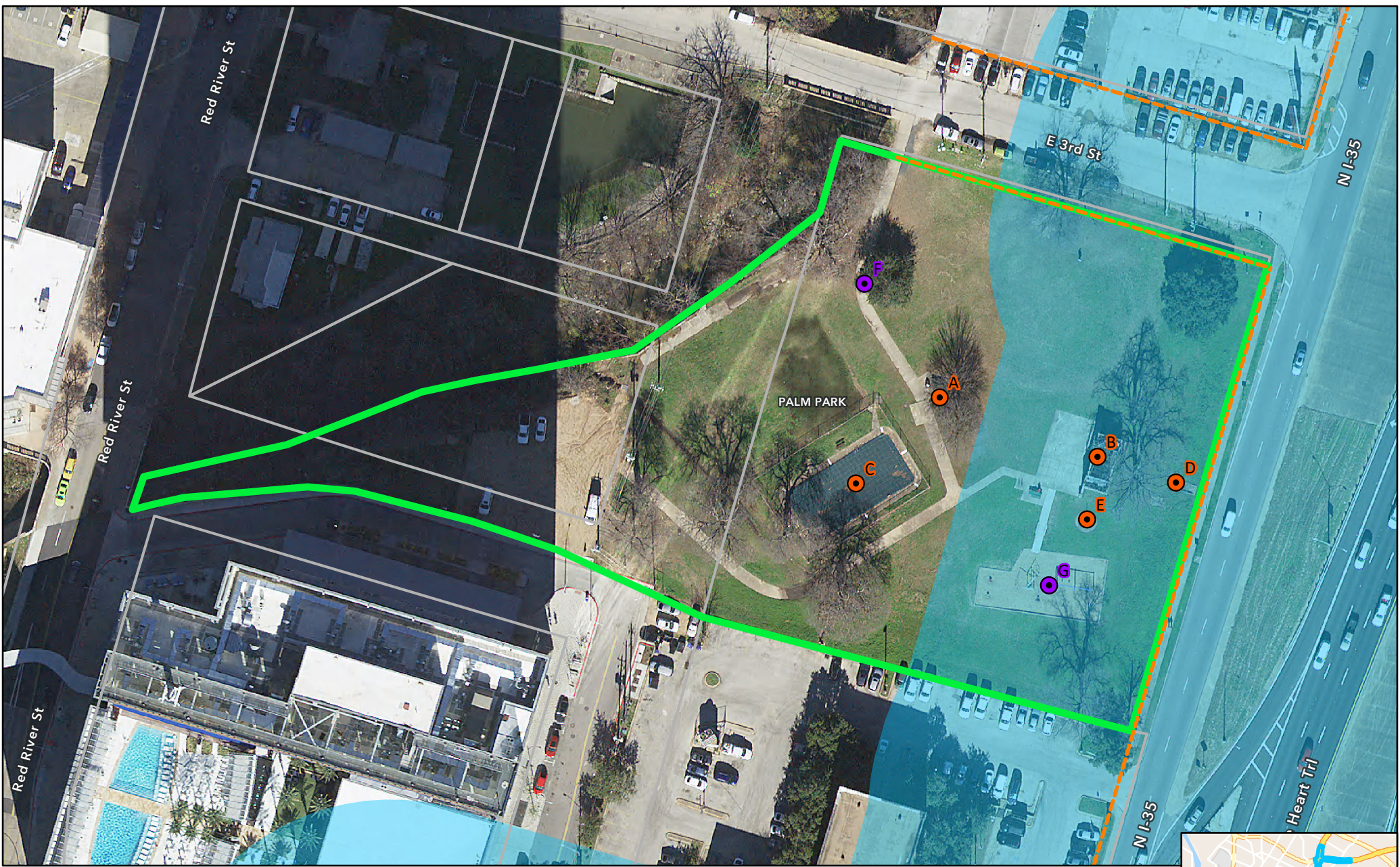
Waller Creek Greenbelt Trail, view facing southwest.

Survey Date:	January 14, 2022
Resource No:	404G
Project Location:	Austin, Travis County, I-35: US 290 East to US 290 West/SH 71
Project Name and CSJ:	Capital Express Central – Palm Park Intensive Survey; 0015-13-388
Address, Lat/Long:	200 North Interstate Highway 35, Austin, Texas 78701; 30.262460, -97.736682
Function/Sub-function:	RECREATION/playground
Construction Date:	2003
Architectural Style/Form:	No Style
NRHP Eligibility	Noncontributing to the NRHP-eligible Palm Park (Criterion A: Entertainment/Recreation and Ethnic Heritage); not individually eligible.
Description/Comments:	Modern playground equipment is located in the southeast corner of the park. It rests in a mulch bed bordered by concrete curbs. Resource 404G was constructed after Palm Park's period of significance and is therefore noncontributing to the park.
Integrity Considerations:	There are no visible alterations. Resource 404G retains all aspects of integrity.



Modern playground, view facing northwest.

Appendix D: Figures



NRHP Boundary Map
I-35 Capital Express Central
Intensive Survey
CSJ: 0015-13-388

- APE
- NRHP Boundary
- Parcel Boundary (Travis CAD)
- Existing ROW (TxDOT)

*No New ROW is Proposed in this Location

- NRHP Eligibility**
- Contributing
 - Noncontributing

Resource Name: Palm Park
Resource Number: 404

