



City of Austin

FOUNDED BY CONGRESS, REPUBLIC OF TEXAS, 1839

LOUISE EPSTEIN
COUNCIL MEMBER

P.O. BOX 1088
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767
A/C 512 499-2255

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 16, 1991

BARTON CREEK WILDERNESS PARK

In June of 1990, the Austin City Council directed the Parks and Recreation Department to contact the National Parks Service to discuss various options for preserving land in the Barton Creek Watershed for water quality and for recreational opportunities. In September, 1991, the City of Austin and the National Parks Service signed a Memorandum of Understanding to perform the Barton Creek Greenway Study.

I have a resolution on this week's Council agenda that directs the City Manager to place an item on the next City of Austin election for the approval of bonds for the purpose of acquiring the tracts of land in the Barton Creek Watershed that the National Parks Service and the Parks and Recreation Department determine to be essential for both preserving water quality and enhancing recreational opportunities.

A copy of the resolution is attached as well as a brief description of the Barton Creek Greenway Study.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Councilmember Louise Epstein 499-2255

BARTON CREEK GREENWAY PLAN

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department has entered into a joint effort with the National Park Service, through the Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program, to develop a Barton Creek Greenway Plan. The purpose of this plan is to develop recreation management and conservation strategies that can be implemented by local, state and federal management agencies and private interest groups. These strategies will be compiled into a greenway plan designed to enhance public use of the stream corridor while conserving the natural resources of the creek.

The study will focus on corridors along the creek.

Development of the plan includes several major activities: resource inventory and analysis, and management options.

- 1: Resource Inventory and Analysis - This involves collecting, organizing and mapping natural as well as cultural and recreational resources. Information categories include land use, existing development, vegetation, hydrology, geology, wildlife, slope, historic and archaeological sites, scenic and special interest areas.
- 2: Management Options - Development of various options for recreational management, resource conservation, and public educational opportunities.

A draft plan is scheduled for the early part of 1992.

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, the usual role of this, or any other, governing body is to decide on matters that have consequences of a transitory nature; and,

WHEREAS, because it is so seldom required that a matter be considered whose impact will extend far beyond the mortal lives of all those who voted on it, it is not surprising that many question the ability of elected officials, at all levels, to have a vision that extends beyond the expedient; and,

WHEREAS, this Council now has an opportunity to initiate an action that is based on the needs of our future generations, one that will require a major commitment of labor, resources, and faith in the future of Austin to accomplish; and,

WHEREAS, this body does not undertake such challenge lightly and fully realizes the effort that it will take to make a goal of this nature a reality; **NOW THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the City Council directs the City Manager to prepare for inclusion in the next City of Austin election ballot language for the approval of bonds to acquire property in the Barton Creek and Barton Springs area for a project that shall be designated as the "BARTON CREEK WILDERNESS PARK". The City Manager shall include in the bond package an amount sufficient to purchase the tracts that contain the features ranked as essential by the National Parks Service and the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department. Their recommendations will be contained in the Barton Greenway Study, which is scheduled to be completed in early 1992. The City Manager is further directed to determine the most appropriate financing mechanisms to be used for the acquisition and to also seek any and all other sources of funding for this project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the language for this particular ballot item shall contain no other projects other than the "BARTON CREEK WILDERNESS PARK", as it is of paramount importance that the community be allowed to vote on this proposal on its own merits, as this will be essential if they are to give clear guidance to future councils regarding their wishes on this matter.

ADOPTED: _____

ATTEST: _____

James E. Aldridge
City Clerk