




## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager 

**DATE:** November 4, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Town Lake Park Redesign

On November 6, City Council will consider an item (Item #27) to increase appropriations by \$900,000 for the final design phase of the Town Lake Park Project. This budget amendment is essential to complete the design and will provide additional funds for the development of Town Lake Park in the area between Lady Bird Lake to the north, Riverside Drive to the south, South First Street to the east and the railroad bridge to the west.

The Master Plan addressed the re-development of the area bounded by Barton Springs Road, South First Street, Lady Bird Lake and Lee Barton Drive. The Master Plan was completed in 1999 by the consultant firm EDAW Inc. with the participation of community stakeholders from the Long Center, Palmer Auditorium, Friends of Parks, the adjoining neighborhoods and the Parks and Recreation Department. Following its adoption in 1999 by City Council, most of the Master Plan elements have been completed. Elements completed to date include the privately developed Long Center, the new Palmer Auditorium and parking garage (Master Plan Phase 1), and Butler Park (Phase 2). The last area to be re-developed, labeled Phases 3 and 4, is Auditorium Shores between Riverside Drive, South First Street, Lady Bird Lake and the Union Pacific trestle, as well as postponed Phase 2 improvements, such as the Children's Garden.

The design contract for Phases 3 and 4, involving participation by the Parks Board and community stakeholders, will be completed by early 2010. It is anticipated the construction will be completed by 2012. The Master Plan Phase 3 and 4 improvements include trails, restroom replacement, a pedestrian crossing over West Bouldin Creek, renovation of irrigation and electrical systems, shoreline observation areas, picnicking and traffic controls on Riverside Drive to protect park users.

Funding for the Palmer Auditorium and garage, Butler Park and the final park improvements is generated by the 5% vehicle rental tax approved by Austin voters in November 1998. In August 2000, City Council approved up to \$6 million in inter-fund borrowing to accelerate the construction schedule of Butler Park (Phase 2). In a

December 2007 memo, City Council was advised that up to \$7 million would be available, also primarily through inter-fund borrowing, for the design and construction of the final park development. Preliminary estimates by the Public Works Department staff indicate this funding amount will be sufficient to complete Phases 3 and 4 and the postponed Butler Park Children's Garden. The project scope does not include additional alterations to Riverside Drive which was reduced from four lanes to two lanes in 2007.

If you require additional information, please let me know.

Cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager  
Stuart Strong, Acting Director, PARD