

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Contract and Land Management RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION Item No. 10

**Subject:** Authorize the negotiation and execution of a contract for the fee simple acquisition of approximately 79 acres for parkland purposes located along F.M. 969 on the northern bank of the Colorado River from Travis County, Texas, in a total amount not to exceed \$435,950.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Capital Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Junie Plummer 974-7085; April Thedford 974-7141

The Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) is working on the acquisition of new parkland and the design and construction of hike and bike trails along Walnut Creek. This area provides a unique natural setting for recreational purposes and facilitates the connection of several hike and bike trail systems. The proposed hike and bike trail will provide users, both commuters and recreational users, to travel the Walnut Creek Greenbelt for more than 7.3 miles connecting Govalle Park with the Walnut Creek Greenbelt.

The southern Walnut Creek Trail is a significant part of the Walnut Creek Trail System, and will eventually connect north Austin with the Colorado River. This proposed acquisition from Travis County is approximately 79 acres located in the Southern Walnut Creek Trail system and provides an essential link between two tracts of existing city parkland.

The purchase of \$435,950 is the current fair market value as determined by an independent third party appraiser.