



TO: Mayor Leffingwell and City Council members

FROM: UFB Chair Patrick Brewer

DATE: January 22, 2013

SUBJECT: Urban Forestry Board Comments on the Barton Springs Grounds Improvements

The Austin Urban Forestry Board reviewed the planned improvements at Barton Springs Pool, and approved the plan with the following three recommendations:

- 1) With regard to renovations in the Tree Court area, to assuage concerns for protection of tree root zones, the following recommendations are made for construction activities and staging:
 - a. That the entire Tree Court is treated as a Critical Root Zone, and all associated protection and compaction avoidance restrictions be followed.
 - b. That decomposed granite is removed from the root zones and beneath the proposed walk to native grade.
 - c. That the piers for the concrete walk suspended pavement are excavated for the first two feet with an air excavation tool.
 - d. That the soil beneath the suspended pavement is de-compacted after the piers are poured and heavy equipment will not be used on the soil.
 - e. That an approved Certified Arborist, Registered Consulting arborist, or appropriate city staff be present during soil work operations to approve each of the above stages of construction.
- 2) Remove the overlook from the plan and pathway to the overlook.
- 3) Increase size of planting median in south parking area to 4000 square feet and reduce the large maturing trees in the planting to two trees.