

# Swim 512 Aquatic Master Plan

## Community Input

The following information is additional input received regarding the Aquatic Master Plan.

The [swim512@austintexas.gov](mailto:swim512@austintexas.gov) email account was set up specifically for the project. Any community members wishing to provide additional input, and those that could not attend public events, provided feedback on the plan and alternatives via email. Additionally, the account was used to collect comments for the Aquatic Master Plan Task Force. The Task Force completed and approved their recommendations on Wednesday, November 29, 2017. Any comments received after that date are not included in this report. Note- Names and personal contact information have been excluded.

### **Email 3/3/2016**

Hi

I noticed that the only two dates listed for public comment and contact regarding city pools were on the east side. Was this because those are historically underserved areas as far as parks and swimming pools are concerned?

I've been in Austin since the 1960s, and it became apparent to me very early on that we had a deliberate racist municipal policy toward public places and public services for citizens, with the nadir occurring when I-35 was planned to run on top of East Avenue.

And right now I am wondering -- as a student in Austin public schools until 1975, I saw how court-ordered desegregation (AKA busing black kids into white neighborhood schools) and especially the closure of the old Anderson high school (and building a new "Anderson" in the liliest-white part of town) left permanent scars on our city, and I note that Austin was subject to court-ordered desegregation for nearly the longest time of all cities in America.

It's been half a century. Why are we just now getting around to addressing those old, failed policies? And -- why have we pissed away a billion dollars on a financially failed metro rail system that serves only rich white people, instead of using that money for grassroots improvements like neighborhood pools and parks?

It'll be another half a century before we pay off our financially unsuccessful metro rail, express bus, toll roads, and other "city improvements" that drain the public coffers, raise our taxes, and only seem to benefit lobbyists and consultants. And -- whatever happened with the \$600+ million library bond package approved in 2006? I never saw a dime get spent on actual capital expenditures in libraries, other than to tear down the previous boondoggle libraries and build newer, more expensive boondoggles.

(Staff Responded)

### **Email 3/3/2016**

I just saw the post you shared on Nextdoor. I cannot attend the input sessions, but I have participated in surveys in the past. Is the city considering building an indoor pool? It astonishes me that there is not a

single one in Austin. My kids REALLY want to swim off-season and we can't without belonging to a private gym. I grew up in El Paso and there are several city indoor pools which we used year-round for a reasonable drop in fee.

**Email 3/3/2016**

I cannot make it to the meeting since I live too far away for me to drive, but I would like to give you my \$.02 worth.

I am a senior citizen and MUST swim for my health. I cannot swim in the two jewels of the city, Barton Springs and Deep Eddy, and I am frustrated that the City pools close so soon in the summer. There surely must be some college people, retired, etc., that can lifeguard since the heat of Austin lasts until at least the end of September. Please see about extending the times!!

**Email 3/3/2016**

I've lived in this neighborhood off Schieffer and Wilshire Blvd for 32 year and it's way over due for our swimming pool to be upgraded. Will the city ever remodel thus facility.

(Staff Responded)

**Email 3/3/2016**

Why is the City doing a fresh round of mega-pool input? It feels like the usual--you all will keep asking suspiciously leading survey questions and steering meetings until it looks like you can justify the mega-pool. It is a bad plan. We need a neighborhood/community-centric system to be inclusive and viable. I would hate to see the southside shucked off in the bin yet again in favor of the sexy east.

**Email 3/4/2016**

I moved to East Austin 3 yrs ago and love it. One of the things I noticed about the 2 pools in my area is the barbed wire on the top of the fence surrounding the pool. I've been meaning to drive to other parts of town to see if their pools have this same feature. I'm not sure how the residents feel about this, but I find it offensive. If all pools in all areas don't have this, then it needs to be taken down.

**Email 3/6/2016**

Every year, it seems that the swim season is shortened by another week---in light of how hot the summers are becoming, this doesn't make sense.

The maintenance on this pool is so hit or miss that a significant portion of the time, we show up to swim only to be told that the pool is closed because of chemical levels--not to mention a couple of years ago that it was shut down for leaks.

The life guards need to enforce the lap lanes; very often, we seniors arrive at the designated lap lane time, only to have to wait while families use the lap lane for their children's recreational swim; speaking of which, we need extended lap lane times. Many of us depend upon this for therapeutic swims.

Thank you for your attention.

**Email 3/8/2016 Patterson Pool**

This pool does not really work well for all the young families in the cherrywood/delwood area. We had many days this summer that the baby pool was closed during normal hours because of the lack of lifeguards and families just wanted to use the baby pool to splash around.

Patterson pool really needs a splash pad to accommodate all the new, young families moving into and currently living in the area who have very young kids. This is a strong trend in demographic change in the area and it needs to be addressed. This could also be a destination for families going to visit the Thinkery across the street. We also need the bathrooms and lighting improved! Please consider these upgrades when preparing any budget.

**Email 5/13/2016**

DEAR SWIM 512 TEAM:

Thanks for all your hard work. The pools have no where to go but to become better.

Just wondering why the opening of Northwest Pool has been delayed so long?

Need lifeguards? Perhaps the hourly wage is too low.

Problems with the renovation? Please let us know what is wrong.

I just am so eager to get back into NW Pool.

Email 5/15/16

Hi, Austin Aquatics,

I would love to help at any capacity to help bring funding to public pools. I grew up in Austin swimming at public pools, and went on to swim competitively in high school and at a top-level Division I NCAA varsity swim team. Aquatics is near and dear to my heart, and I think that city-provided aquatics programs will continue to bring opportunities to many people in our community. Please contact me if there is anything I can do to help in your effort.

(Staff responded)

**Email 5/15/2016**

Hello,

I read that the aquatics department was taking comments from the community. I would like to request that the Adult Master's Swim program adds classes to a central Austin pool, preferably Deep Eddy. I loved having access to that program when it was going and it always seemed very well attended. When the program moved up north I could not participate because I live in East and work Downtown attending would have required over an hour of drive time. I imagine there are potential swimmers that live in south Austin that were even more effected by the change.

I know that Deep Eddy has become more and more popular and that they have eliminated morning programs to allow for more lap swimmers. Perhaps holding practice before open is an option 7am-8am. Thanks for your time!

(Staff responded)

**Email 5/20/2016 Additional Comments**

Forgive me for not remembering the name of Deep Eddy Pool when I completed the Aquatic Master Plan survey yesterday---heard about its 100th anniversary celebration this coming Saturday on the news this morning. My eldest son was a life guard with the COA for probably 3 or so Summers during his high school years, and felt it was a positive experience.

I view the choice of where to place facilities (pools) as a function of arithmetic--demand obviously is a driver, but so is financial support by patrons. Since some pools are free, funding is not connected to consumer utilization, so obviously you then are only prioritizing placement of pools based on demographics. I believe pools, like libraries, should be dispersed throughout the city, so contemplation of regional aquatic facilities or a central natatorium do not fit my idea of serving our populace equitably. The YMCA/YWCA, certain public and private university-constructed and supported facilities, and possibly private venues should be encouraged to allow residents of Austin access to these specialized facilities when they are not being utilized for program/private situations with appropriate compensation to offset expenses for increased traffic/hours, etc. The city is struggling to maintain its current inventory of pools and providing lifeguards, so adding more is putting an added burden on an already overstretched department.

Just following up with additional comments.

Thanks.

**Email 7/6/2016 Splash Pad Idea**

Hi! My name is (redacted) and I am a resident of the Barrington Oaks neighborhood. We have nearby park Tanglewood Park off of Spicewood Springs and Rustic Rock. It is wonderful except that a few years ago a fire destroyed the pavilion/ bathroom area and all that remains is a large raised concrete slab. As more young families move to the area as originalwe are solely missing a nearby public splash pad, with the rising temperatures the nearby parks are often empty mid day.

I propose that we install a public splash pad and benches in the area. There is obviously already a water line running to this area because of the bathrooms, so install may be cheaper than rectifying a new splash pad in a different area. I saw the upcoming meeting at the Spicewood springs library, but I am unable to attend.

We could call it Phoenix Splash Pad since it will arise from the ashes!

This has been an idea of mine for a while since I have had toddlers, but just saw the recent proposal for community feedback regarding future aquatic play areas.

Thanks and let me know if I can help.

**Email 7/9/2016**

Hello,

Just wanted to share my thoughts on aquatic centers in Austin. I live in way South Austin, just south of slaughter and Manchaca (78748 zipcode). I strongly support the construction of a large Family Aquatic Center or splash pads in this part of Austin. There are many young working families in this area and no splash pads east of Manchaca Rd or nearby. I do hate to see green space go, but I'd rather have a recreational facility replace it than a huge apartments or gas stations that are currently being constructed. If Austin residences are in full support of constructing family aquatic centers, please consider one in this part of the city. We greatly need it and would appreciate it!

(Staff responded)

**Email 7/20/2016**

Hi there,

Just wanted to give my two cents on Balcones Pool. My family and I LOVE Balcones pool. My daughter has gone swimming there since she was Itty-bitty. We love getting there right as it opens or going after dinner. Every May my daughter notices when the pool is filled with water and asks every day if the pool is open yet. At the end of summer she gets so sad when it closes.

We love this pool. It's a regular summer hangout spot for my family and for my daughter and her friends. I love that it's a quick walk (finally something we love you don't have to fight traffic to get to!) From our house.

Please don't close our pool! It would crush my daughter. She's a summer baby who lives to swim.

Thanks,

**Email 5/22/2017 No Mega Pools**

Why are you doing a new round of input? We haven't felt like PARD has been responsive to the public. PARD wants a mega pool on the eastside. The citizenry wants community pools (especially on my listserv, which is southside and has kids that will go from being underserved to not served at all).

I was heartened to read in the Chronicle about the teacher who is building a program to get more life guards by "growing" them. For whatever involvement PARD had in that -- thanks.

(Staff responded)

**Email 5/30/2017**

I have a question that I would like some comment on. Would it be possible to extend pool hours at select pools in the Austin area, including the one in Old West Austin Park, by selling pool memberships? Why could the city not post a sign letting swimmers know they are swimming outside of lifeguard hours, so it is at their own risk. Sell key cards that are programmed to last only for a year. Allow those with a key card to be able to access the pool year round. This could be a money making opportunity for the city, and at the same time, allow for longer annual use of the community pools. Pools in Austin could be used in Austin from March through November, but are now only open from June through August.

(Staff responded)

**Email 6/17/2017 Request**

Hi - Hey - it's really hard to go swimming this 2017 summer. Mable Davis continues to be closed. I protest that. In addition, you've again limited Stacy's days of operation with it being closed on Monday. I protest that. If Mable Davis is closed, there's no reason to have Stacy closed on Mondays as well. Get the staffing together. The kids take over Stacy from 8am - 10am with swim team. And then it's rec swim all day there. This is crap for single adult swimmers in 78704 and 78741. I pay taxes. And it's harder than EVER in the summer to find times when I can swim. That doesn't make sense. Please fix Mabel Davis ASAP so we can use it 2017. Also, there should be NO reason to close Stacy on Mondays during the summer when more people want to swim than ever. Summer reduced hours of operation at Stacy? That makes no sense.

Thanks - Please fix this.

(Staff responded)

#### **Email 6/17/2017 Feedback on Aquatics**

Hi, I just wanted to provide feedback about Austin aquatics since I know you're in the midst of master planning.

My neighborhood pools are Metz and Martin, both of which are walkable from my house. I highly value having walkable neighborhood pools to walk to with my young child. We are signed up for swimming lessons at Metz this summer. While the larger metropolitan pools are great, they require fighting traffic, finding parking, etc. I love the neighborhood pools for the same reason I love neighborhood parks--they are convenient, accessible, and can be visited frequently without planning and hassle.

A bit more specific feedback:

1. My neighborhood pools open well after the hot weather arrives and close well before it's over.
2. Metz pool has lovely shade, but Martin is incredibly hot and sunny, with no relief within the fenced area of the pool. A shade canopy would be so great.

Thanks,

(Staff responded)

#### **Email 6/19/2017 Problems with the aquatics "master plan"**

This is a CC of an e-mail I sent Leslie Pool.

I am a frequent lap swimmer at Northwest Pool. I'm fortunate to be able to walk to the pool and use it heavily during the summer. Northwest Pool is a wonderful facility that should remain open in its current form, more or less, in my opinion.

I helped raise money to provide aerators (coolers) for the pool this summer, which will improve the experience of everyone who swims there, either laps or recreationally.

Starting in about 2014, I participated in every public meeting I was aware of regarding the aquatics "master plan" and, as of the June 13 meeting, am disappointed, somewhat confused, and very concerned about the direction in which it's apparently going.

First problem. On June 13, it was said that the draft master plan would be ready by the end of June but no specific date was given. This doesn't give the public much time to read or comment on the draft proposal in advance.

Second problem, much more serious. According to Rey Hernandez from Aquatics, the "master plan" isn't a plan at all; rather, it's a set of guidelines for the city to use when a pool fails. This alarmed me greatly for the following reasons:

- It implies the city isn't going to maintain its pools any longer, instead waiting for them to fail.
- The replacement/repair process isn't known, nor was it stated whether or not there will be any opportunity for the public to comment on it.

Third problem. In my opinion, the hearings and the Swim512 process were not transparent at all. Believing the goal to be a \*plan\*, I expected there to be some projection about which pools will be replaced with new pools or with "regional aquatics" facilities or whatever. Instead, there were a lot of PowerPoint slides presented in easels and meaningless exercises that (to me) were diversions from the entire point of the meetings, which were for the public to provide feedback toward a specific plan. I don't think public feedback was taken seriously nor do I recall any of these PowerPoint slides taking these comments into account.

What I do NOT want to happen is:

- 1) A pool fails (as determined by whom?).
- 2) A mysterious process is invoked by which the pool is permanently closed and replaced by another facility opening years in the future and not in the same neighborhood.

What I think should happen is (in summary), Brandstetter Carroll should be excluded from the decision-making process. If a pool fails, the city government and the public should decide whether or not that pool is closed and replaced, or whether that pool is repaired.

Please make sure the public is involved going forward in a meaningful way. I'm sure Brandstetter Carroll is highly competent to do whatever we ask but in my opinion, they have been too involved in the process so far.

(Staff responded)

#### **Email 6/22/2017 North Oaks Park**

Hi!

I have reviewed the presentation boards concerning the under served pool regions in Austin.

North Oaks park has enough space to facilitate the building of a pool and a parking lot. This park is extremely underutilized. I think it would be beneficial to the North East Austin community to consider this park as a site for a new pool.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Take care

(Staff responded)

**Email 7/15/2017 Comment on your data for Reed and Westendfield pools**

I saw your data for Reed Park pool and Westenfield pools in the Statesman here:

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3894860-Pool-Rankings.html>

Your information for Reed Park pool seems low and is probably affected by renovations to Westenfield pool.

Both pools serve similar areas of town and I use both of them. Westenfield pool was completely replaced a few years ago with a great new pool. Reed Park pool has great shade trees but has not been updated. The demographics for both pools should look similar, but you show far fewer people with access to Reed Park pool than Westenfield.

In reality, most people drive to one and if they can't park or if it's closed, they drive to the other one.

Attendance at Reed Park pool is normally about the same as Westendfield pool, but having one brand new pool (Westenfield) and one in need of repairs (Reed Park) has attracted more people to Westenfield pool (because it is new and it is now overcrowded) at the expense of Reed Park pool (because it is old and has fewer amenities than Westenfield pool).

Both places are community gathering spots, great places for kids to learn to swim, great places for parents to meet and talk, and fun places to swim. Your study is picking up on a difference in usage between Westenfield and Reed Park pool not because of demand, but because you have recently replaced Wesenfield pool with a very nice new poo..

I would suggest that you:

\* Consider Reed Park pool for eventual replacement, like Westenfield pool. It has fantastic shade trees and is a great place for a neighborhood pool.

(Staff responded)

**Email 7/15/2017**

The missing component of Austin swimming is indoor, year-round swimming centers.

You call this a "Premeir Indoor Aquatic Center" in your presentations.

[http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Parks/Planning\\_and\\_Development/July\\_Aquatic\\_Master\\_Plan\\_Presentation-Final.pdf](http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Parks/Planning_and_Development/July_Aquatic_Master_Plan_Presentation-Final.pdf)

Austin pools today are nice in the summer, but are closed during most of the year.

I would like to see Austin develop a few of these centers to support different areas of town. Perhaps one central, one north, and one south to start.

Lamar Beach would be a great place for a central swim center, servicing downtown and Austin High and west and east central Austin. Another possible location central would be a redevelopment of the area between Haskell and Nash Hernandez in Festival Death, where the current Austin Health and Human Services Dept has services, next to Martin Middle School.

(Staff Responded)

**Email 7/20/2017**

Thank you for your response.... I see the same people at both pools & the new Westenfield pool is really awesome. Hopefully someday we can do something similar to Reed Park pool too. The usage used to be pretty balanced but now Westenfield is nice but crowded and Reed is still well supported but not as nice. I see the same people at both pools

Parking at Reed Park is a little safer because the only real way to park at Westenfield is to illegally park on the Mopac frontage (but this is where everyone does park), then walk across the grass. A little sidewalk at Westenfield connecting the frontage road parking to the pool area would be nice.

Thanks again for your response!

**Email 7/24/2017**

PARD:

As I understand it, PARD is to steward park assets for the good of the public who own them. Failing to repair pools and claiming it is not the same net impact as proactively shutting down pools is not appropriate stewardship. Nor is saying "we do not have the resources."

**Email 7/24/2017**

Dear Austin Aquatics,

In reviewing the draft of the Austin Aquatics Master Plan, I noticed seven "Association/District" pools marked on the map (Aquatic Service Areas - 20 Year Plan, page X) in the Northwest Hills area around Murchison Middle School. However, as a resident of this area, I am neither familiar with any of those pools, nor could I find any of them on aerial images of the neighborhood. I am familiar with Westover Pool (shown as a "club" on the map) and the JCC (not shown on the map).

Can you please provide names and/or addresses of these seven "Association/District" pools that were included in the map?

(Staff responded)

**Email 7/26/2017**

How was the public engagement phase conducted? Why am I hearing of this for the first time? Patterson park is my neighborhood park. I celebrated all my childhood birthdays there and now my daughters do. I do not want this Park to gentrify. I don't want hoardes of people to decide it is a good

park because the city decides to spend 4 million on it. Can we prioritize the needs of this Park that aren't aesthetic? There is very little wrong with this Park in it's current state. We are there daily and love it. It's never overly crowded and there is still at least some diversity here. Why don't you make small, necessary changes over time instead of dumping an obscene amount of money on unnecessary changes? Smh at this city's priorities.

(Staff responded)

#### **Email 8/6/2017 Comments about the pools**

I have been using the pool at Dick Nichols Park for several years. I would like to see this pool and others in the city better maintained. I think it is a shame there is not a working pool at Govalle Park. As a general comment, a splash pad is no replacement for a pool. This is Texas and children in Texas need to have the opportunity to learn to swim. A splash pad is only good for kids under ~ 6 years old, and after that, they are too old for it. A pool is great for children and adults of all ages.

Areas for improvement at Dick Nichols pool that I've noticed include the following:

- The life guard chairs appear to be in poor condition
- The umbrellas for the lifeguard chairs are in horrible condition and do not protect the life guards from the sun
- The rings on the lifeguard stations look cracked and in poor condition
- There is peeling paint in several places
- There are several cracks in the sidewalk around the pool area that seem like they keep getting bigger. It seems it would be cheaper and better for the pool to repair them while they are small.
- There is extremely minimal shade around the pool
- One of the ladders in the deep end of the pool was broken and then entirely removed
- There are several wasp nests in the women's changing room. I had told the lifeguards about them and also called 311 several weeks ago, but they are still there. I'm concerned someone will get stung.

I'm sure there are other issues I did not list in addition to these. Please use the tax money collected to make repairs on these facilities before they become unrepairable. Also, please keep the pools free to use if at all possible. The kids and families that need the pools the most are the ones that can least afford to pay to use them.

Thank you,

(Staff responded)

#### **Email 8/12/2017 Pools in Austin**

Hello:

EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW HOW TO SWIM.

When my daughter was young, she took the entire sequence of swimming lessons offered by Aquatics of the City of Austin. As a teenager, she worked as a lifeguard at several pools for the City of Austin.

It is imperative that neighborhood pools continue to exist so it is easy for children to learn to swim. Regional pools will not promote this. Keeping these pools open is more than having a convenient place to swim.

On a personal note, my daughter's father drowned. (He did know how to swim. It did not happen in Austin.) Two of my husband's children are married to people who do not know how to swim. (They did not grow up in Austin.) As adults, they feel handicapped but are reluctant to take swim lessons.

I urge you to make keeping neighborhood pools open and repair the ones in need.

Thank you.

**Email 10/23/2017 Swim Master Plan input**

Hello,

Thank you for hosting an event tonight for public comment on the Swim Master Plan. I had planned to attend to speak, but my husband has been assigned to travel today for work and I will be at home with our children and thus unable to attend.

I am a resident of 78704 in the Sherwood Oaks/Travis Heights area. My comments are regarding and in support of both Big and Little Stacy Pools. We enjoy the pools for all the reasons that other families enjoy them: fellowship with neighbors, activity outdoors, exercise, and teaching the skills of swimming to our young children (17 mo. and 3 1/2 yrs). The pools are an integral part of our happiness in living in our neighborhood and a large reason of why we have committed to staying in our home within the urban core of Austin, despite many other challenges that our location brings. These two pools are routinely busy when we attend, but sometimes are more peaceful.

My main comment about the uniqueness of these pools, though, is that they provide a rich opportunity for our children to interact with people of all economic and cultural backgrounds. The attendees of both pools are very diverse, and with that, comes language diversity. My children, being raised in a dual language environment, have the opportunity to interact in their non native language with other children at these pools. This is unique because it is a free, open, fun, and natural environment in which to have this experience and education opportunity, rather than having this interaction only in a classroom. Of course, non native English speakers also benefit from interaction from English speaking children. It's truly a place of non intimidating and natural exchange through play and physical activity, which is key to language acquisition.

That being said, I would be in favor of charging a small fee for entry to reduce the crowds as well as to help financially support the maintenance of our pools and all others, so long as it would be low enough to allow persons of low income to still be able to enter, perhaps \$1.00 per person. The bottom line is that I very much support keeping these pools open for the benefit of physical activity and cultural sharing for our children. We are shaping global citizens that value diversity and acceptance, and though it may not be obvious, opportunities like those provided at both Little and Big Stacy Pools are KEY to the development of this type of citizen.

Please prioritize Big and Little Stacy pools for inclusion in the city's Swim Master Plan moving forward. Could you please respond with comment and confirmation of receipt of my comments?

Many thanks,

(Staff responded)

**Email 10/26/2017 RE: Aquatic Master Plan Task Force- Future Meetings**

Thanks much to staff and advisory committee members for such great open house meetings and actively listening to citizens, some of us more vehement in our suggestions than others. We all really appreciate this breath of fresh air type real citizen involvement. Your patience and thoroughness is appreciated.

Email 10/26/17 RE: Aquatic Master Plan Task Force- Future Meetings

Thanks for the email! I reached out to a few Texas based aquatic consulting companies that do a lot of work with municipalities master planning. If you want, you can reach out to them as well. Contact info listed below. Although Natare does not get involved with master planning, we manufacture swimming pool systems (pools, gutters, moveable bulkheads, PVC Membrane liners and grating) used all over the world for both competition and recreational pools. I've attached a corporate brochure that outlines what Natare does.

Aquatic Consultants

Company Email	Location	Contact	Contact Number	Contact
Counsilman-Hunsaker <a href="mailto:3742">3742</a>	<a href="mailto:travisstensby@chh2o.com">travisstensby@chh2o.com</a>	Travis Stensby	<a href="tel:972-370-9722">972-370-9722</a>	Dallas, TX
Brannon Corporation <a href="tel:2122">2122</a>	<a href="mailto:tbozick@brannoncorp.com">tbozick@brannoncorp.com</a>	Travis Bozick	<a href="tel:903-597-2122">903-597-2122</a>	Tyler, TX

Regards,

(staff responded)

**Email 10/27/2017 Re: Aquatic Master Plan Task Force- Future Meetings**

I hope these two meetings will present the specific suggestions from the task force with a chance for us to respond. From my point of view, the meeting on Monday at Gus Garcia Rec Center was simply a rehash of what we already know about the master plan.

Respectfully,

(staff responded)

## **Email 10/30/2017 Master Plan Ranking Concerns: Save Deep Eddy & Big Stacy!**

Hi Parks & Rec,

I attended the LAP meeting at the Recreation Center and felt very concerned by the message I received: Austin doesn't have to close pools, the pools will close themselves.

The city is growing, no pool should be left behind!!! Old fabulous pools need to be repaired. Outdoor swimming in Austin is part of its fit, green & fun culture that needs to expand with the population, not shrink.

Historic pools, especially with non-chlorinated water like Deep Eddy or long lap lanes like Big Stacy are an oasis to swimmers (both tourist & resident!). These gems are centrally located to downtown (lunch break swimmers!). I was flabbergasted to see them at the bottom of the ranking list. I believe the ranking system is flawed as it doesn't take into consideration what is important to swimmers.

Please amend the ranking system to include:

1. Non-chlorinated
2. Historic significance
3. Miles from downtown (all lifetime swimmers who take their lunch breaks from their offices downtown need easy access to year round lap lanes)
4. Length of the pool (25 meter minimum for lap swim)

The current ranking system gives prominence to small neighborhood pools. These pools are chlorinated, not convenient from downtown, lacking in length and lanes needed for lap swimming, and only open in the summer. The ranking system lacks the perspective of a serious swimmer.

Conclusion: Please re-do your ranking system such that Deep Eddy & Big Stacy are funded when they need big or small repairs. Everyone who learns to swim over the summer need pools conducive to swimming laps year round. Or, consider Deep Eddy and Big Stacy to be like Barton Springs, excluded from the ranking system completely since they are integral to the Austin's brand, culture, history and health.

Many thanks,  
(staff responded)

### **Email 10/29/2017 Aquatic Master Plan Feedback**

We won't be able to attend the Aquatic Task Force meetings but I did want to give feedback as we had such a negative experience with the Aquatics Program this past spring and summer.

Our daughter had a strong interest in lifeguarding, so we went through the enormous amount of red tape required by the city - keeping her out of school for the in-person interview (only offered during school hours), filling out numerous forms, bringing in her social security card and original birth certificate, etc. She passed all requirements with flying colors and recruited five neighborhood friends to join her for the lifeguard training during Spring Break.

The instructor leading the training was the most rude, brusque, inept leader we have ever experienced. When we called to ask if our daughter could be transferred to another training class, we were told this woman was not supposed to be a lifeguard instructor but you were shorthanded during the break. Her disorganization, rude demeanor and consistently insulting the students ruined the experience for our daughter. She completed her training at the JCC and went to work immediately, earning over \$3000 in one summer (for a 15-year-old kid, not bad).

Our friends who stayed in the City of Austin Lifeguard Training were miserable. The entire system is horribly broken in terms of disorganization and leadership. The City would double-book kids to be at two pools at once, then scream at them and give them demerits when they didn't show at one (after trying to find a sub, but so many lifeguards quit because of the inept leadership). Most of the lifeguards my daughter trained with didn't work at all because the scheduling was so difficult and disorganized. We were able to make side-by-side comparisons with my daughter, who worked for a private club. The club had one leader who issued a monthly schedule; lifeguards were responsible for securing their own subs but could ask for help if needed. Leadership makes all the difference and the City of Austin Aquatics is sorely lacking. You all need to clean house and start from scratch - our taxes are so ridiculously high that we should not have closed pools due to no lifeguards.

Sincerely,  
(staff responded)

### **Email 11/22/2017 pools**

I am writing as a private individual, not in my capacity as school board trustee. I would love the opportunity for the City of Austin and AISD to jointly run a competition/lap pool. Could NW pool be covered with a structure so that winter swim workouts by area high school swimmers and swim meets take place there? Currently, Anderson HS swim team members must drive to Round Rock to workout. NW pool could accommodate Anderson, McCallum, LASA/LBJ, Reagan, Lanier and Austin High students. 50 meters long, 25 yards across.

Thanks.

(staff responded)

**Email 11/26/2017 Support for Ramsey Pool**

Hello -

I write as a neighbor of the Ramsey pool to urge you to support its longevity and presence in the Rosedale neighborhood. It is such a vital part of our community feeling - a place where kids and adults to gather and cool off on hot Texas summer days. It is a centerpiece of summertime here in Rosedale. It would be such a shame to stop supporting this old fashioned neighborhood staple that serves as a glue for us.

Sincerely,

(staff responded)

**Email 11/26/2017 I Support Neighborhood Pools**

I support neighborhood pools, such as Ramsey Pool. Neighborhood pools, in walking and biking distance, add so much to the quality of life in Austin for families. Please maintain Ramsey and other neighborhood pools.

Sincerely,

(staff responded)

**Email 11/26/2017 Ramsey Pool**

Dear Members of the Aquatics Master Plan Task Force,

Please give every consideration to maintaining the Ramsey Pool.

Many of us in the community have contributed in the last couple of years to revitalization to encourage even more to see how welcoming and enjoyable it is to go to....for the pool itself but also for using the grounds to picnic and have gatherings.

Stop by; it looks great and is of great value to our neighborhood. Young and old appreciate it!

With best wishes,

(staff responded)

**Email 11/26/2017 Please Keep Ramsey Pool Open**

Hello,

I have been an Austin resident since 2003 and have lived near Ramsey Park a little over two years. My wife and I have a child on the way and are looking forward to taking her to the neighborhood pool in Ramsey Park, the only City Pool near our home. I ask that you plan to keep Ramsey Pool open and dedicate additional resources to the pool's maintenance. If funding is an issue, I ask that you give the neighborhoods near the park the opportunity to raise fund needed to keep open our beloved pool.

Thank you,

(staff responded)

**Email 11/27/2017 Re: Ramsey Pool**

Greetings.

For decades Ramsey Pool has been the center of this neighborhood. We went there almost every evening all summer long when our daughters were small, they learned to swim with the lessons there, they did swim team, we met neighbors and made friends at the pool, our older daughter lifeguarded there (and other pools but mostly there) for five summers, the park summer camp kids and lots of kids from other camps come in the summer. A lot of people walk to the pool.

This kind of facility is the essence of a walkable, family friendly city neighborhood, and it's been one of the defining characteristics of Austin when almost all other cities in the south closed their public pools to avoid integration. We need more neighborhood pools, not elaborate mini-water parks that everyone drives to and that charge entrance fees.

Simple is still often better in so many regards. Please remember that and defend or yes expand Austin's distinctive neighborhood pool quality.

(staff responded)

**Email 11/27/2017 Please Keep Ramsey Pool!**

Hello,

I am 63 years old and have lived in Rosedale since 1981. I was once Chair of the City of Austin Planning Commission and I know how difficult budget decisions can be, but I believe that Ramsey park is very important to the fabric of our inner city neighborhood and the pool is the center of it all. I have been swimming there for about 35 years and would like to keep doing so. I have also been paying a lot of property taxes for this amount of time and am hoping to continue to be able to do that as well. I will say, however, that I am not someone who finds that easy to continue doing. I am nearing retirement and just had major surgery. The only exercise I can do is swimming and so Ramsey is very important to me. I anxiously await the summer opening of the pool and am sorry when it closes at the end of the summer.

I believe I speak to many long-time Rosedale Neighborhood residents who have made the choice to stay within the City of Austin and not move to the outside to skirt the property taxes yet still use the facilities. Not that long ago the pool was redone and it would seem a waste to have spent that money only to have the pool closed down soon after. This would not demonstrate good planning or good use of our tax dollars in my opinion. Whether it is from bond funds or otherwise, please please KEEP RAMSEY POOL OPEN. It is used by more than just Rosedale as children from around the city come here to swim. I have noticed that since allowing short-term rentals (and with the coming of CODENEXT) the neighborhood has been somewhat less cohesive as people are coming and going much more frequently. But the demand on the pool is great and it is important in maintaining that neighborhood feel.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Sincerely,

(staff responded)

**Email 11/27/2017 Please Keep Ramsey Pool!**

Just in case you didn't know-

Beverly Sheffield and his other city workers had a vision that every neighborhood in Austin would have its own pool.

This was a veritable promise to the citizens. A reason to live here. A commitment to health.

Perhaps they intuited many years ago the newly found reason that the residents in Iceland stay healthy - it's because they swim and talk and meet in the water.

Our pools ARE our communities as well as the life we expect to have in this city of high taxes.

Thank you.

(staff responded)

**Email 11/27/2017 Ramsey Pool**

Dear City of Austin,

I'm writing to express my support for Ramsey Pool. It is a vital part of the neighborhood, and really serves to bring our community together during the summer months. During the summer, my children go there several times a week, and we are always sad when it closes for the school year. At this place, we see friends, meet neighbors, and build a better, stronger community. I hope our neighborhood pool can continue to serve us in this way.

(staff responded)

**Email 11/27/2017 Ramsey Pool**

Please keep Ramsey Pool open. It is very popular with neighbor families and families from the surrounding area. The pool has been recently renovated and Boy Scouts have added tables and chairs as part of an Eagle project. It is a jewel in Central Austin, please keep it open.

(staff responded)

**Email 11/27/2017 Don't close Ramsey Pool**

Property taxes in Central Austin are ridiculously high. Yet, every election, we're asked to fund another bond or vote for another tax increase to pay for city services.

What are we getting for our taxes? Not much beyond the bare minimum.

Don't take away one of the few benefits we have--our Ramsey Park neighborhood pool.

Our schools are a mess, thanks to Robin Hood. Our roads are over-crowded and need repair. Our parks and public spaces lack basic maintenance.

But we have a pool, for now. Let's keep it that way. It's a small-dollar item that pays off in a big way.

(staff responded)

**Email 11/27/2017 pools are essential!**

I am a huge supporter and frequent user of Austin city pools. I visit Barton Springs, Deep Eddy, Little Stacey, and Bartholomew pools on a regular basis, and in the summer I visit Ramsey pool almost every day. I wish it could be open for a much longer season and I certainly would be vehemently opposed to closing that pool. The climate in Austin is much too hot to consider closing pools in lieu of doing the work and spending the money that is needed to maintain them.

(staff responded)

**Email 11/27/2017 Importance of Deep Eddy**

Dear Task Force Members,

Thank you for taking on the important job of making recommendations on the city's pools.

We are year-round users of Deep Eddy pool and value its role in our health and the health of the city.

Please help assure the continued availability of this important resource to the citizens of Austin.

Thank you,

(staff responded)

**Email 11/27/2017 Aquatics Master Plan- Ramsey Pool**

Hello Task Force,

I have lived in North Central Austin for 16 years and have used Ramsey Pool throughout my entire residence. It is an absolute gem to the neighborhood. I am now a mother of two small children, ages 3

and 7 months. My 3 year old has grown up using the pool and we look forward to when he is old enough to join the swim team. His sister swam her first swim there this summer. My elderly in-laws live in the neighborhood and schedule walks to Ramsey Pool as part of their fitness.

The climate of Austin being so hot for so long during the summer months lends itself to free neighborhood pools. The health benefits, relief from the heat and unity the pools bring to neighborhoods across the city should make keeping them open of the highest priority. We can make this work! Please do not close Ramsey Pool and do what we can to maintain the free neighborhood pools.

thanks for listening,

(staff responded)

**Email 11/27/2017 Ramsey Pool**

Hi,

My name is (redacted) and I am resident of 3803 Petes Path in the Ridgelea neighborhood, just west of shoal creek across from Rosedale. This email is in support of keeping our beloved Ramsey Pool.

I have a 7 year old kid that has enjoyed the Ramsey Pool each year every since she was born. We take our daughter to the pool pretty much each day during the summer vacation, and its one of our favorite activities. We walk from our house to the Ramsey Pool which is 10-15 minute walk, to get together there with friends and cool off.

I am writing this email in support of keeping our neighborhood Ramsey pool, as there has been information circulating that the pool might be considered for elimination. Eliminating Ramsey Pool is a bad idea, something you'd know if you'd see the hordes of crowd each day during the summer.

Thank you.

(staff responded)

**Email 11/27/2017 We support Ramsey & Reed Pools!**

Hello swim512 Team,

We are a family of 5 (mom, dad, and three kids ages 8, 5, and 3) who lives in Central Austin (Ridgelea). I'm the summer we often frequent both Ramsey and Reed Pools. Westenfield Pool is generally too crowded during the hours we can attend, and Deep Eddy is too far, not to mention no food is allowed, parking is difficult, and it isn't free. Our neighborhood lies in between both Ramsey and Reed pools, so if one is closed or is having maintainance performed, we'll quickly scoot to the other. These sweet pools are places where we meet our friends, neighbors, and classmates. And many more times we find ourselves making new ones.

This summer we met a family of 5 visiting Austin from Alabama that chose to rent a home on VRBO strictly because of its proximity to Ramsey Pool!

Please continue to maintain and support these two assets in our community. We love Ramsey & Reed Pools!

Thank you for your consideration,  
(staff responded)

#### **Email 11/28/2017 Ramsey Pool**

Neighborhood pools are the center of summer activity. They provide the opportunity to socialize and learn to swim. DO NOT CLOSE RAMSEY or other neighborhood pools.

Closing these pools is completely contradictory to the idea of neighborhoods, and decreasing traffic by walkability.

(staff responded)

#### **Email 11/28/2017 Save Ramsey Pool Please!**

Dear Planners,

As Austin grows, it seems every day the cost of living is just a bit tighter than the day before. That's certainly the case in the financial sense, but also the toll it takes on a spirit too. (I'm guessing you've noticed:) It has always been a toasty place & getting warmer all the time. As more people move here it seems we need MORE--- NOT FEWER places to gather, to cool(!), to be a community.

It's a safe bet that the price of repairing or constructing pools is daunting. But, think of the price of not addressing this need now.

One of the few green spaces in the central part of Austin is about to be paved over to build “the grove”. The effects of all the concrete, etc.,- the added heat, more road congestion, as well as more people, will make our little pool in Ramsey Park all the sweeter & in my mind, truly a necessity.

We need neighborhood pools, that people can walk to. That’s an important part of keeping Austin livable.

Thank you for helping do that!

(staff responded)

### **Email 11/28/2017 Support of neighborhood pools**

I am writing in support of all neighborhood pools, but am particularly thinking of my favorite pool at Ramsey Park. Our neighborhood raised a surprisingly large amount of money to renovate our park a couple of years ago. There was widespread support - both financially and in sweat equity - for the wonderful and creative renovations. Our park is now teeming with happy children of all ages who have their pick of great play equipment, bike paths, a covered basketball court and newly renovated tennis courts.

No matter how wonderful Ramsey Park looks today, it is nothing without our pool. So many happy hours in our miserable Texas heat have been enjoyed by my children and my neighbors' children. My daughter even lifeguarded at Ramsey Pool. Over the 25 years I've been in Rosedale, our neighborhood has paid for benches, picnic tables, trees, end of summer pool parties and aerators to improve our pool. Please don't let our years of investment in Ramsey Park be wasted by closing the pool.

Austin is continually recruiting new companies to Austin with the promise of an improved and expanded tax base. It pains me to think that we had more respect for our parks when we were smaller and less "hip" than we now consider ourselves. Austin is currently considering CodeNext which will add much density to our neighborhood. Now is NOT the time to consider closing the pool. It is time to prioritize our parks and neighborhood pools for the benefit of all of Austin's citizens, current and future.

Thank you

(staff responded)

### **Email 11/28/2017 please save our neighborhood pools**

What would we do without these neighborhood pools that I have visited three to four times a week in the past with my grandchildren during the summer. They are a loved resource during the tropical

summers here in Austin and I urge you from the bottom of my heart to continue to fund this resource available to all regardless of income. With thanks (redacted)

(staff responded)

**Email 11/28/2017 Austin aquatics**

I want to submit a brief comment to convey our interest in continued support for city pools. We live near Patterson Park and the pool and swim team (piranhas) are a huge part of our family summers.

Please continue to support these programs and pools. They are so vital to so many central austin families.

(staff responded)

**Email 11/29/2017 More \$\$ for pools**

Hello,

I'm writing today to ask that a greater share of the next bond be spent on our neighborhood pools. These pools are extremely important to the people of Austin. I think there are other items included in the next bond that can wait--like more money for libraries. We just opened a huge amazing new central library and we already have many branch libraries. I think they can wait until the next bond cycle to build more, but our pools are failing NOW. I would also be OK with increasing the total size of the bond in order to fully fund the aquatic master plan and take care of all needed pool maintenance.

I also reject the idea of closing neighborhood pools and just focusing on larger regional aquatic centers. Having a small pool closer to home is a wonderful thing and I would put proximity over features. With traffic being so bad in Austin, who wants to sit in your car on a hot day waiting to get to the pool on the over side of town? It's much better to be able to walk or drive a short distance. We are lucky enough to live within walking distance of Stacy Pool. Actually it wasn't luck--that's one of the reasons why we bought our house!! And although we have two kids, we don't need a lot of bells and whistles. Just a simple pool is fine, with lap swimming on one side and open play on the other.

We've neglected our precious pools for far too long. Living in the hot climate of central Texas, they are a vital part of our healthy, active community.

**Email 11/29/2017 Ramsey pool - please keep open . City swim team Ramsey Redfish is very important**

Hello,

My children have swam with the Ramsey Redfish for 8 years. The city summer swim team is a very important program for neighborhood health, fitness, and swim safety. Many walk or bike to the pool in

June & July for swim team practice. These same kids often become lifeguards for city pools in high school years.

Adults also use the pool for lap swim. It is packed for recreational swim too.

(staff responded)

**Email 11/29/2017 Please support community pools!**

Hello,

This summer was the first time we could take our now one-year-old daughter swimming. Her maiden voyage was a float in Ramsey pool.

We support Austin's neighborhood pools, and we especially want to see Ramsey pool stay open.

Summer lived in 10 different states before moving to Austin six years ago. Not one of the communities in which her family lived offered free (or low-cost) neighborhood pools. Our pools are an important community amenity that are part of what makes Austin's quality of life so high.

We hope to take our daughter swimming in our community pools for many more summers to come. Please invest in keeping the neighborhood pool tradition a long-lasting one.

(staff responded)

**Email 11/29/2017 Ramsey Park Pool**

My name is Mark Levy, and I live at 4205 Ramsey Avenue. I write in support of maintaining the Ramsey Park pool as part of the Aquatics Master Plan Task Force consideration process. It's the jewel of the neighborhood and the anchor of Ramsey Park. It is a meeting ground for Rosedale neighbors and families who come in from other neighborhoods. It's clean, safe, and fun, and it's exactly the sort of pool that should be preserved.

(staff responded)

**Email 11/29/2017 Ramsey Pool and Others**

Hello City of Austin Aquatics Department!

I live in Rosedale and am currently the Co-President of the Neighborhood Association. Jeff Archer, has been attending meetings on our behalf and let us know at our monthly meeting of the details.

I am unsure this needs to be said again but Ramsey Park, and especially Ramsey Pool, are extremely well attended and beloved. Pools such as ours, in the inner city, are part of the fabric of our communities. They bring us together, give us relief from the heat, and bring enjoyment for kiddos and adults alike during our hottest Texas months. Our pools allow us to leave our air conditioned homes and enjoy the outdoors with others for a few hours without being completely miserable.

We have been hopeful over the years, that not only would we continue to have this neighborhood asset, but that it would be improved. We have been told in the past that it was slated for a bathroom remodel, which has not happened. The pool is in otherwise, good shape. No, it is not a fancy swimming park, but kids and parents alike do not need that and enjoy it all the same. A simple, nearby watering hole is just fine by us and is even preferred.

Please consider not only keeping our pools intact, but asking for funds from our bonds to continue to improve them. If we can support you in that effort, please let us know whom we need to speak with.

(staff responded)

#### **Email 11/29/2017 Ramsey pool**

Hello,

I use Ramsey pool about 6 out of 7 days it is open for lap swimming. It is a big plus to our neighborhood that I want to stay.

(staff responded)

#### **Email 11/29/2017 Aquatics Master Plan**

Ramsey Park and pool are jewels within a central core long time, established neighborhood. Both are used extensively by both Rosedale neighbors and many surrounding neighborhoods. Ramsey Pool is used for swim lessons, water sport training and recreationally and should NOT be closed. Yes, it does need maintenance given its age and funds need to be allocated for that in the Aquatics Master Plan. Ramsey Pool & Park are landmark destinations and should be preserved. With The Grove at Shoal Creek being developed with ~1,500 new residential units and without any public swim facility, Ramsey Pool will become even more important. Thank you.

(staff responded)

### **Email 11/29/2017 Neighborhood pools in Austin**

I am writing to provide input into the pool master plan for Austin.

I view neighborhood pools as a vital cultural differentiator which helps makes Austin a place of unique character. They are far more important in creating the culture which we know as "Austin" than one might think. And specifically, the moderate-scale neighborhood pool structure is actually a vital Commons area which brings us together as a community in a world increasingly isolated by air conditioning. Back in the day people sat on front porches and said "Hi" to neighbors. Today, public pools help reformulate some of that daily community-building activity.

I was born in Austin, have lived in various cities around the world, and love calling Austin home again. What is amazing to me, is that these neighborhood pools which were built in the 1940s, and 50s and 60s in a city of less than 100,000 or less than 200,000 people are now threatened with closure or consolidation of their numbers. How is it possible that today with 10x the number of citizens we declare that we "can't afford" to keep all of the same pools open, and add to the portfolio but still with more citizens per pool than ever before. How does this make sense? How could it be that with 10x more citizens we "can't staff" the same pools and must shrink the season or the hours.

My neighborhood pool is Ramsey. I honed my swimming skills there in the 1970s. I view all of our portfolio of pools as vital cultural assets which should be viewed as such by our community, and the conversation should be around what we need to do to make them more vibrant centers of our community. Other cities do not have these assets or the same benefits. I love the rational approach to prioritization of spending on pools, but I do not support a contraction of our pools system. I understand the Ramsey scores poorly on the evaluation matrix, but this pool and others like it cannot be removed from our more walkable, more bike-friendly and outdoor-connected society.

Thank you,

(staff responded)

### **Email 11/29/2017 Keep Ramsey Pool !**

Hello!

We urgently request that Ramsey pool continue to be supported as a long time neighborhood gather spot !

I swam there as a kid, and our grand kids now enjoy a cool summer splash, so keep it updated and open!  
Thanks for your consideration and support.

(staff responded)

### **Email 11/29/2017 Ramsey Pool**

You have huge decisions to make about the Austin aquatic issues. Please keep the Ramsey Pool open.

Ramsey Pool is used by all ages, races, economic levels. I have enjoyed the pool for more than 20 years and have seen people from other neighborhoods use this pool because it is so neighborly and friendly. In this time when there is so much division in our society, keeping interactive places small is essential. Austin has a history of valuing community and pools are a real way to promote community interaction.

Just as huge malls are being replaced by boutiques and "small town like settings...please see the value beyond \$\$\$ for keeping neighborhood structures appropriate sized.

Support every effort to build community interaction beyond...a walkable downtown section.

Your vision and actions will make the Austin of the future.

Thank you very much for your work on this important topic and for consideration of the thoughts above.

(staff responded)

### **Email 11/29/2017 Please Preserve Our Neighborhood Pools**

Dear Task Force:

I am writing to support the preservation of Austin's neighborhood pools. I believe these pools are tremendous additions to our small neighborhood parks and neighborhoods, and they pack a huge punch of fun, entertainment, and exercise into a very small space. The Ramsey Park pool in Rosedale serves as a positive neighborhood gathering spot and meeting place, and draws folks of all ages.

Following are a few of the reasons why I think neighborhood pools are important:

- Neighborhood pools allow a wide range of ages to walk to go for a swim, including younger children as well as older folks.

- Neighborhood pools serve as neighborhood meeting places.
- Neighborhood pools serve as a local spot for exercise with their dedicated swim lanes for lap swimming.
- Neighborhood history is cemented with the neighborhood pools, especially those that have been in existence for many decades.
- Neighborhood pools offer a perfect venue for programs for children, especially for swim lessons and for special needs students.
- Neighborhood pools can cool off an entire neighborhood, and help to combat the effects of global warming on a local level.
- Many neighbors have worked closely with the Austin Parks department and have invested to help to improve neighborhood parks where the pools are located.
- Regional pools at the expense of neighborhood pools pits neighborhoods against neighborhoods.
- Regional pools over neighborhood pools puts more people into their cars and onto our already over-crowded streets.
- Regional pools do not jibe with the expressed city desire to have more folks walking and biking.
- Regional pools do not allow people to live and play close to home.

Don't take away these neighborhood pools, an amenity which the neighborhoods already enjoy and which work so well. I recommend that we improve and update the existing neighborhood pools, in addition to creating regional pools and simple splash pads to expand for new and/or underserved communities.

Sincerely,

(staff responded)

**Email 11/29/2017 Ramsey Pool...**

Please find a way to find funding for the Ramsey Pool and other neighborhood pools too. The Ramsey Pool is highly utilized by many in the neighborhood for relaxation and exercise and it is an important part of the neighborhood summer time activities. It would be such a shame to have to close the Ramsey Pool as well as the others across the city. I think it is disgraceful that the city has been so negligent on maintenance over the years that now the deferred maintenance is so very high. Hind site is 20/20 but previous city councils and city managers should not have been allowed to “kick the can down the road”.

Thanks for your consideration.

**Email 11/29/2017 Tonight's task force meeting**

Dear Task Force Members,

I was looking at the agenda and associated items to see if I wanted/needed to attend tonight's meeting. I found your recommendations and just wanted to say Thank You for hearing us! Those are perfect.

We loved taking the kids to the Brentwood pool as infants, and when they were old enough they both took lessons there and at Northwest Pool. Our daughter swam as a Brentwood Bluefish for six years and both kids swam for McCallum High, becoming COA lifeguards at fifteen. Currently one is lifeguarding at UT's Jamail Swim Center and the other is on the UT-Arlington Water Polo team. Neighborhood pools may not be money makers, but they help make healthy citizens.

Thanks again,

(staff responded)

**Email 11/29/2017 Aquatics master plan**

I am not able to attend the meeting today at the Lamar Senior Activity Center, but I would like to voice my support for keeping Ramsey Pool open. Public pools are a treasured resource in our fine city. It would be a great loss for our neighborhood to have our neighborhood pool close. Please keep Ramsey pool open!

Many thanks for your service.

(staff responded)

**Email 11/29/2017 November 29**

Hello

We are long time residents in Travis Heights and very interested in wanting to keep the older pools functioning. We have a special interest in Stacy Pool as we have lived two blocks from the pool for 37 years..It is well used by the neighborhood - giving children a place to play and swim during the summer and lap swimmers throughout the year. My daughter grew up swimming at Stacy and then went on to be on the Stacy Sharks swim team for several years, and later coached the Stacy Sharks in the summers when she was in college.

Deep Eddy pool is a gem of a pool and the oldest pool in Texas. Beautiful spring fed waters - which we love to swim in. Our daughter, who currently lives in D.C., says that (besides visiting her family) these two pools are her favorite part of returning to Austin - Stacy in the winter and Deep Eddy in the summer. Considerable funds have been used in recent years to update both of these pools.

I am sorry that some personal situations have prevented us from being involved sooner. We are unable to attend the meeting tonight at the Senior Center, but Eugene says that he will attend the Bond meeting on Thursday evening. Please let us know if there is any information that he should know. Otherwise he will just show up at the Carver Museum and show his interest and contribute when and if appropriate.. We do not know Susan Holland's email, but are interested in historic designation for some of the pools - Stacy was built in the 30's by the WPA in the 30's and Deep Eddy being the oldest in Texas.

Thank so much,  
(staff responded)

**Email 11/29/2017 Ramsey pool**

The pool in the park has been a great source of neighborhood joy and cohesion over the years. In a way, it is the heart of Rosedale. Please preserve our pool!

(staff responded)

**Email 11/29/2017 Ramsey Park pool**

Ramsey Park is such a beautiful and very used park for the Rosedale neighborhood. Its pool is a vital part of the park. People come from all around to enjoy the pool. Please keep the Ramsey Park pool up and running for many years to come!

(staff responded)

**Email 11/29/2017 Ramsey Pool**

I just wanted to mention that Ramsey Pool is an enormous asset, not only for the Rosedale neighborhood, but for people apparently from all over town who come and use it during the summer months.

(staff responded)

**Email 11/29/2017 Concerns about misinformation/ errors in Martin pool listing...and what its future will be**

I appreciate that much time and effort has been spent by many on this effort to date. Thank you for allowing input from some regular swimmers who were able to find out about and attend 1 or other scheduled event.

Before I add my concerns/comments/ enquiries, I feel i would like to give you some insight to who it is that is commenting.

I had the good fortune to grow up with swimming being one of my regular activities. Where I was from most every school from primary school through university had a pool and a swim team.

I received an internationally recognized Physiotherapy degree there and continued to practice here as a physical therapist and so have been involved in that arena for 35 years or so.

During my training i had my spine broken when a fellow student was over zealous in practicing a manipulation. I manage well in spite of this, have been cyclist of decent distances etc. It is the swimming that keeps me going. Without it i would not be able to be painfree and active.

.

I came to Austin Texas from a different country, one in which we swim at our own risk so money need only be spent on upkeep of the grounds and pool facilities.

I chose to "invest in" Austin back in the late 1980's because of what it had to offer. When I bought a home, it was not with the understanding that the city would reduce facilities offered as the circumference of Austin expanded. Surely the influx of people also means increased income for the city and so why can the city afford less rather than more?

I havent heard that offensive radio advert in some time thank goodness but i think it was mobility Austin that said something about Austin is not a city where people come to settle, it is where movers and shakers, innovators come to make a difference and then move on. Well.....that is not / was not my plan....and i dont think I like the idea of those people changing the feel of Austin to suit them for the short time that they choose to be here making the changes/ money they do.....and then leave us without the Austin we Austinites LOVED/ have all but lost a hold of already.

Swimming is an integral part of my every day and without it the day is not complete.

I look forward to the supreme treat of swimming in an outside pool, under the shade of the trees in the park with the water fed by a hot "spring" at Stacey pool year after year. In fact this is my favorite time of year to swim.....outdoors.

I would almost rather not swim than swim indoors though I MAY do that once or twice a year on the odd occassion/ year that Austin temps. drop low enough that Stacy doesnt open soon enough fro several days

in a row. This because understandably they open unless the temp is above 34 degrees. I see NO call for a city funded indoor facility.....not down here in Texas.

For me a LARGE part of the daily swim experience is the HISTORY of the pools, the character, the old swim houses etc. I would NOT enjoy a trendy, "modern" vibe. If I would, I 'd join a club of which there are many in Austin already.

I hear there is talk of "aquatics centres". Remember, many of the pools DID have diving boards, the only pools I have swum in that still allowed diving ....Mabel Davis some years and Garrison...BUT there is a lifeguard whos time is dedicated to telling the kids when they can go.....we all know most of the pools removed the boards for safety concerns. We also all know that every year for the past many years, the greater issue wrt opening pools has been not enough lifeguards..... so to me a facility with playground type stuff in latigous US is just silly. Also....sure kids may enjoy slides into pools but a slide out of a pool in the park is also cool as is a waterpark. I dont know ANY kid who wouldnt be happy with the basics..and it should be every parents goal to raise kids that are able to appreciate a swimming pool without bells and whistles. On the other hand, I LOVE the fountain that is in Mabel Davis kids section and I love the kids section at Martin Pool

NOW ONTO MY CONCERN that MARTIN POOL seems to not be mentioned.....SO many havent even heard of this GEM.

MARTIN POOL

I did look at the info available online this morning and am concerned.

Forgive me.....I was unable to find the original ??graphs fro the original study so may have misinterpreted...i hope i did. Those I think explained ratings etc. But then i understand that was by people with no idea about what Austin is about :).

saz

Anyway...All Spring i look forward to the opening of Martin pool. While it is not yet well frequented...seems few have ever heard of it, it is wonderful and has more/ different to what the chart prepared ( as i understand it ) says.

I love the simplicity of Martin Pool.

It is MINUTES drive from my home. Sure one has to drive slowly though the lake grounds but IMAGINE the beauty!! ...its in the lake grounds...how wonderful. Parking is plentiful. The only time it was an issue was when the icecream festival occurred over a weekend mid summer and everything was parked up.

The chart says there are only 19 parking spots. They must have only counted the smaller of the 2 flat, accessible, off road parking areas. One is west of the pool, the other, larger parking area is east and of course.....there is always space along the road that never has to be used...unless there is a festival. Mind you ...there is also off road parking on the south side of the rod at the abandoned fire station.

As far as accessibility...flat flat flat; great walkways; large gate opens onto pool deck...no steps...not even into the restrooms which are handicapped accessible; wide pool deck; not a large enclosure but ...well there is the entire lake ground beside it and some trees, oaks i believe, were planted within the enclosure a couple of years ago. PLENTY room for expansion if desired.

This summer i had the misfortune to fall and blow out an ACL and fracture my knee cap so i can tell you the gentle inclined wide steps into the recreational part of the pool that has a lovely rail in the center so that you can hold on with whichever hand necessary is a blessing. There is of course also a ???handicapped chair to lower someone in.

Every day a handful of lovely retired residents of the towers east of I35 walk to the pool for a daily swim as soon as the pool opens. I have no doubt they will tell you it is accessible to pedestrians. The people living in developing East side can access it easily too from several streets. It says 20 min walk.....dont know where thats from. I live south of Riverside, East of I35 and could probably do it in 20 mins. I saw visitors to Austin get a Lyft ride to the pool this summer.

It got poor rating for ease of access to maintenance staff/ equipment...i couldnt imagine easier access at any other pool...as i say...wide gate, flat flat flat. It says poor employee safety measures. Dont know what that would be. What I do know is that it is alongside the cutest play park....there are cement tortoises!

There is ample room for expansion should that be desired and ample room to build a shower room should that be desired. Neither is necessary. I love rinsing off under the outside cold shower before driving home in my swimsuit...feels like i am on vacation every day!

My ONLY concern is that the operating hours are unfair ( in my opinion) on "recreational" swimmers. I use the " " you see because....i swim because i love it. Is that "exercise". When parents bring their kids to play....is this not valuable "exercise"?

Anyway...particularly this past year, i found it upsetting that families were turned away even though there were 3 lifeguards on duty. "because recreational swimming is only after 11a.m. or noon some days". If we are going to talk about making facilities available for those who cant spend a fortune on other Summer plans/ gyms etc, then surely we should make it more doable/ available in the times they can be there???? THIS would be my only concern.

Noone needs more than basic to enjoy swimming/ playing / pool fun.

If we are going to "expand" anything...it could be recreational hours. Mabel Davis used to be open until 9pm and i loved seeing families arrive to enjoy an outing together. Surely the city didnt save much closing 1 hour earlier?

As much as I do love Stacy pool, come summer it gets very crowded and waaay too warm and hours are restrictive with swim lessons and needing to get to work so i look very forward these years to MARTIN POOL. In years gone by i would move over to Mabel Davis in Summer. What a treat!!! an olympic level pool in lovely parkland.....one 4th of July i watched deer...a mom with her babies from the pool. The larger pool means it stays so much cooler.

Clearly its lesson learned, pools deteriorate particularly when left empty most of the year. What a pity that Austin largely limits swim season to "school summer". There are so many more months in which people can swim here. It would be an investment in the health and wellbeing of individuals and families.

Thanks for listening to some of what i feel about all of this..i do have strong opinions about it all but do know you have already heard from many.

If COA takes our pools away, i will leave the city for good. There is sooo little of what attracted me to Austin left. I heard YOUNG lifeguards bemoaning the fact that Austin isnt what it used to be the other day.....saying they probably wouldnt stay, having been born and raised here...is THIS what Austin wants to be??

i forgot... a fellow swimmer asked me to add his name to the concerns about Martin pool. He is walking distance from the pool and enjoys it every day in Summer. He is retired and also a home owner....Bill Breaux is concerned about the future of Martin Pool/ He too swims at Stacey until Martin opens. For both of us Martin is the Summer treat

(staff responded)

#### **Email 11/29/2017 Neighborhood pools are vital and important**

These pools provide respite, recreation, swim lessons, and other activities to neighborhoods. They are vital to the unique nature and fabric of our neighborhoods. They cut down on traffic and they spread our burgeoning population out so the larger pools aren't always completely crowded. They provide heat relief and recreation for many families who can't afford to go the larger pools every day in the summer.

In our climate these pools

Are necessary for weathering the summer and contribute to the health and wellbeing of all age groups.

Please keep these pools in the plan. They are part of what makes Austin a somewhat livable city in the summer.

(staff responded)

#### **Email 11/29/2017 Neighborhood pools are a vital part of ATX**

Hi - My husband and i have been happy Austinites for >23 years. We've enjoyed immensely the neighborhood pools as well as the rest of the city pools - and parks and rec space.

Our daughters learned to swim in Ramsey Pool (walking distance) and last year started participating in lap swim for health. We participate in swim team for the past 5 years at Patterson Pool. We attend Patterson swim team because it's an evening program (we both work) and we've made many friends in that neighborhood spending time around the pool. We love the accessibility, availability to neighbors, "neighborhood feel" and variety. We will frequently bike to NW pool (longer hours and bigger facility). On special occasions, we will visit Deep Eddy and Barton Springs.

We could not imagine the Austin landscape without these treasures and we urge you to invest in neighborhood amenities like pools where neighbors can gather, relax and enjoy outdoor space (but stay cool and healthy!) We always look forward to the annual Ramsey Pool End of Summer Party - a Rosedale tradition!

(staff responded)

**Email 11/29/2017 Please preserve Ramsey pool!**

Dear master plan task force,

The pool at Ramsey Park is a centerpiece of the neighborhood, most significantly for everyone with kids under 12, but also for teenagers and older people. Moreover, people invite friends over from neighboring neighborhoods to meet up and have kids play together.

Please make sure that it stays put. It's already too bad that the season can't be a bit earlier and longer.

Kind regards

(staff responded)

**Email 11/29/2017 Please save Ramsey Pool**

A big reason we moved to Rosedale was the wonderful Ramsey Park and Pool where neighbors and families meet and build a strong and active neighborhood. It is a major asset to the city at large. Residents of the Rosedale neighborhood have lent great support to the park over many years and utilize it daily. Please do everything possible to save Ramsey Pool, which is such an opportunity for healthy living in an increasingly congested area of the city.

(staff responded)

**Email 11/29/2017 Please keep Ramsey Pool open**

Hello,

I'm writing to ask you to please keep Ramsey Pool open. It adds immensely to the quality of life for both people who live in the surrounding neighborhoods, and for people who don't live near by but would like a free pool to swim in along with a wonderful park where their children can play. As I'm sure you're aware, Rosedale and the surrounding neighborhoods have spent the last four years feverishly working to raise money to renovate the park. That project is finally nearing completion. The park and the pool are also highly popular with children participating in the Summer Playground Program.

The Grove and Code Next will drastically add to the density of the surrounding area. The Grove has no plans for a neighborhood pool in its minuscule park for its thousands of new residents. Those residents will swarm to Ramsey Park and pool. Please, please keep our pool intact. These neighborhood pools are one of the things that make Austin a special place to live. I grew up in Houston, where there were just a few city pools. It promoted segregation and privately owned neighborhood pools that kept the general public out. It's not an open, community-friendly way to live.

Perhaps Rosedale and the surrounding neighborhoods could partner with the City of Austin to raise money to maintain Ramsey Pool, while still keeping it free for one and all. It's important to our community, and it's important for Austin. Please keep Ramsey Pool open.