

# COUNTRY CLUB CREEK TRAIL PRESENTATION 9/28/06

My name is Malcolm Yeatts, I live in the Sunridge Neighborhood. I represent SEATAG, the Southeast Austin Trails and Greenways Alliance, a member subgroup of the Austin Parks Foundation. This group was formed during some of the first meetings of the East Riverside/Oltorf/Parker Combined Neighborhood Plan. The members include residents of all the neighborhoods in the EROC area, and trail and bicycle activists from all over the City. The goal of this group is to build a hike and bike trail from Mabel Davis Park to the Guerrero Colorado River Park. I am here today to tell Council about the progress our group has made on the Country Club Creek Trail, and to ask Council for continued support to achieve our goal.

You have just seen a video showing the work we have been doing to remove trash from the Guerrero Park and clear a trail through the brush in the Park. On February 16 I spoke to Council during the Citizen Communications to ask your help in obtaining recreational easements for the next section of the Trail from the Guerrero Park to Elmont Drive. At the March 2 Council meeting Council Member Raul Alvarez introduced a motion to direct the City Manager to assist SEATAG to secure the needed easements to extend the Trail, and report back to Council in 90 days. I am here today to report that this cooperative effort between the neighborhood group and City staff was a success. Due to the diligence of Ricardo Soliz and Butch Smith in Parks, and Junie Plummer in Real Estate, the easement behind the Jefferson Commons Apartments was converted from drainage/utility to drainage/utility/recreational. Members of our group have now cleared this easement all the way to Elmont Drive.

Our group has cleared the Trail all the way from the Town Lake Trail to Elmont Drive. The City is building the section of the Trail between Burleson Road and Oltorf with a CIP project. The section west of Burleson will run on residential streets. The critical section of the Trail that remains to be built is between Riverside and Oltorf. Once this section of the Trail is complete, the residents of our neighborhoods will be able to ride bicycles all the way from Mabel Davis to the Guerrero Park without traveling on a major arterial road. The neighborhoods of the EROC area are asking Council today to help us achieve one of the major goals of our neighborhood plan by directing the City Manager to allocate resources to obtain recreational easements for the section of the Trail along Country Club Creek between Riverside Drive and Oltorf.

Thank you for supporting this important goal of our neighborhood plan.