

Ana Aguirre, Chair
Southeast Combined Neighborhood Plan Contact Team (SCNPCT)
PO Box 19748
Austin, TX 78760
February 7, 2018

RE: Pastor Craig Park

Dear Honorable Mayor Adler, Mayor Pro Tem Tovo, Council Member Garza, Council Member Houston, Council Member Renteria, Council Member Casar, Council Member Kitchen, Council Member Flannigan, Council Member Pool, Council Member Troxclair, and Council Member Alter,

Thank you for your service and for taking the time to consider our request in support of Council Member Garza's proposed recommendation to change the name of Franklin Park to Pastor Craig's Park. During our regularly scheduled SCNPCT meeting on January 8, 2018, the SCNPCT Membership unanimously voted in full support of changing the name of Franklin Park to Pastor Craig's Park.

Pastor Craig became an amazing giant of an advocate for the SCNPCT area in Southeast Austin, although he and his wife, Mrs. Brenda Craig, did not live in our area or even in Austin. His initial engagement with the Contact Team was during the Bond Election process several years ago. At that time, the only benefit the SCNPCT area was scheduled for was a bike path along Burleson Road and an additional shower for the Fire Station on Nuckols Crossing. The SCNPCT, together with Pastor Craig, advocated for and secured resources to improve the Dove Springs Recreation Center and the community parks. Subsequently, Pastor Craig and his Church Community also adopted Franklin Park and completely turned it around. Advocacy for additional lighting, improved trails, planting trees, etc., resulted in a safer and family friendly environment at the park.

His passing has resulted in a tremendous loss for our community, but Pastor Craig's spirit will endure. It would be a great honor to have Franklin Park renamed after Pastor Craig. Pastor Craig laid a solid foundation in the SCNPCT area, and it would be a great honor to continue to commemorate and celebrate Pastor Craig's life and contributions. We respectfully request the Council vote in favor of this name change in honor of Pastor Craig, who will be sorely missed but not forgotten.

Respectfully submitted,



Ana Aguirre, Chair
SCNPCT



AUSTIN PARKS FOUNDATION

October 24, 2017

Jackie Goodman
Office of Council Member Delia Garza
Austin City Council District 2

Dear Jackie,

On behalf of Austin Parks Foundation's staff and board, I would like to express our support of the renaming of Franklin Park to honor dedicated community leader and friend, Pastor Edward Craig.

In partnership with his wife Brenda, the late Pastor Edward Craig led the Franklin Park Adopt-A-Park team for over four years. In addition to work he did with his church, he was very active as a resident leader with Go Austin!/¡Vamos Austin! (GAVA) as well the Southeast Contact Team. After his congregation purchased land in the neighborhood to build a new church, Pastor Craig inspired his community to get involved with the park. He let us know that they "wanted to support the neighborhood and to focus not just on the spiritual needs, but the material ones as well." Pastor Craig took this work very seriously and committed hours of volunteer service to surveying the community, creating a park assessment and action plans, meeting with various city departments, securing grant funding, and beautifying the park. Pastor Craig advocated on behalf of Dove Springs and Franklin Park, but also spent time advocating for parks across the city. Pastor Craig's goal of reducing graffiti and crime in the neighborhood was also realized: Austin Police Department reports showed a 38% decrease in crime in the area. For all of their efforts, the Franklin Park team was a recipient of APF's Golden Shovel Award for Most Outstanding Adopt-A-Park Group in 2016.

Under Pastor Craig's leadership, Franklin Park was completely transformed from an unsafe park to a very active, safe, beautiful neighborhood park used by families throughout the community. He will be greatly missed by the entire community, but his dedication to Franklin Park will not be forgotten. APF is supportive of any way that we can help to honor Pastor Craig's legacy.

Please let me know if I can be of any other assistance.

Sincerely,

Ladye Anne Wofford
Chief Mission Officer

Extras standard in Bolding homes

The Austin American Statesman (1973-1987), Mar 7, 1976

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Statesman
pg. D8

Extras standard in Bolding homes

Mutt Bolding offers a viable alternative to apartment living with his Spirit of '76 homes in the South Austin subdivision of Franklin Park.

Standard in all homes are the extras that spoil apartment dwellers.

Roomy living areas offer hand laid masonry fireplaces

with gas log starter, rich wood grain paneling, vaulted or cathedral ceiling with exposed cedar beams, and plush wall to wall shag carpet.

The family-sized kitchen features scratch and stain resistant lacquered wood cabinets, color coordinated formica countertops, stainless

steel sinks, gas range with an electric timer, dishwasher with energy saving cool dry and potscrubber cycle, and garbage disposal.

All floor plans include three bedrooms and two full sized baths. The master suite is large enough for king sized furniture and is equipped with

marble vanity, walk-in closet, and shag carpet. Both baths have linen closets and color coordinated wall paper.

The exterior of Mutt Bolding's homes in Franklin Park offer a handsome brick or stone elevation with rough sawn cedar touches, boxed eaves for reduced maintenance, X90 masonite siding for more time between house paintings, large cement driveways, and newly seeded, sprigged and landscaped lawns.

Single and double car garages have simulated wood grain sheet rock walls and finished ceilings, just waiting for the do-it-yourselfer, or a dry place for the kids on those rainy days.

An oversized patio allows you to enjoy the privacy of your six foot cedar fenced backyard.

Within the subdivision of Franklin Park, a 6 acre area has been dedicated to the city of Austin for use as a city park.

Close to where you need to be, Franklin Park is 2 miles from IRS, 8 miles from Bergstrom, and 6 miles from UT.

To see Mutt Bolding's Spirit of '76 homes, drive south on the east access road of IH 35 from Ben White Blvd. Turn left on Teri Road and left on Pleasant Valley Road, into Franklin Park.

Extras standard in Bolding homes
The Daily American Statesman (1977-1983) Jan 27, 1976
The Austin American Statesman
pg D9

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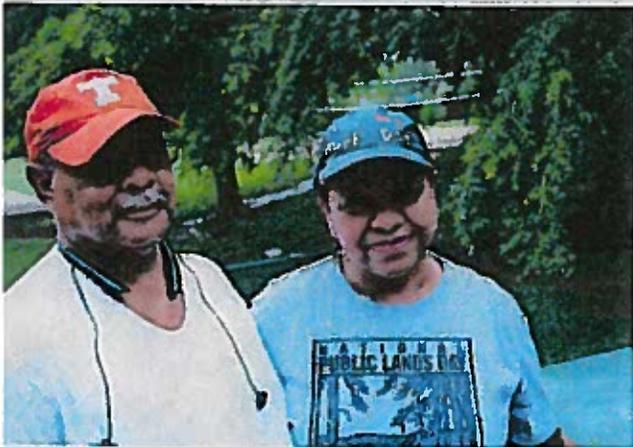
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Pastor Edward
& Brenda Craig

ADOPT-A-PARK PROGRAM HANDBOOK

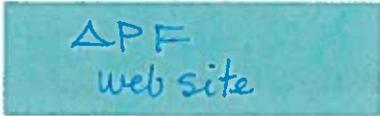
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By Elizabeth McGuire

There was a time that residents of a Southeast Austin community wouldn't dare walk through the lush, 5-acre green space tucked into a cul-de-sac in their neighborhood. Franklin Park, even in the daytime, was considered off limits. One neighbor had a policy of walking her dog only as far as a railing that stands 20 feet from the perimeter, out of fear for her safety once she hit park grounds.

Despite the walking path, playground and picnic tables, the park was best known for its graffiti, trash and high crime rate. Today, thanks to dedicated patrons Brenda and Pastor Edward Craig, Franklin Park is a source of pride instead of fear and frustration.

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The Craigs were motivated to improve the park after the church Pastor Craig leads purchased nearby land to build a permanent home.

"We wanted to support the neighborhood and to focus on not just the spiritual needs, but the material ones as well," Edward said.

In 2013 the Craigs worked with representatives from the resident-led coalition Go Austin/Vamos Austin (GAVA) and a committee of citizens to secure a \$13,000 grant from Austin Parks Foundation. Their goal: to make Franklin Park a safer and healthier place for the neighborhood.

With the APF grant money, the team upgraded and added picnic tables, barbecue pits and a volleyball court. They installed lighting, flower beds, port-o-lets and a ping-pong table. Their team of volunteers logged 1,933 hours.

"Getting the APF grant was incredible—somebody believed in us!" Brenda said. "But in addition to the funding, APF also helped us set realistic goals and stay on track."

When Franklin Park began transforming, many residents noticed and began pitching in. A neighbor who owns a landscaping company donated his staff to help mulch the trees and maintain the flower beds. More homeowners began taking care of their yards, removing abandoned vehicles and participating in Neighborhood Watch Groups. Residents started to call authorities when they saw graffiti or suspicious activities at the park. According to Austin Police Department reports, the area's crime rate decreased 38 percent in 2014 after the park improvements were made.

The Craigs have even more plans for Franklin Park. Their team meets monthly to discuss ongoing maintenance, as well as other improvements on their wish list – including adult fitness equipment, water fountains, a splash pad, a permanent restroom and more lighting.

"After the success we've had, I'm more determined than ever to make these other improvements happen," Brenda said.

Of all the ways the neighborhood is showing its support, perhaps the most powerful is that they are returning to the park and using it just the way the Craigs envisioned: playing and exercising outside, picnicking with family and gathering with friends.

"The greatest thing is to see how the residents are getting involved and taking ownership," said Brenda. "There is a real sense of pride here now."

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People Plus Parks is a new series featuring the people behind the work we're doing in Austin's parks. Check out the "People + Parks" category for more.

May 9th, 2016 | [Adopt A Park](#), [APF News](#), [Parks](#), [People + Parks](#), [Volunteer](#) | 0 Comments

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Austin Parks Foundation (APF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to partnering with our community to enhance people's lives by making our public parks, trails and green spaces better through volunteerism, innovative programming, advocacy and financial support.

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