

RESOLUTION NO. 20180809-057

WHEREAS, on May 23, 2013, the Austin City Council approved Resolution No. 20130523-074 which declares the second Saturday in August as Barton Springs Fest to be celebrated at Barton Springs and provides for free admission to Barton Springs until 2 p.m. on that day; and

WHEREAS, Barton Springs Fest has been a successful day of celebration and learning at Barton Springs; and

WHEREAS, on August 6, 2015, the Austin City Council approved Resolution No. 20150806-046 which moved the Barton Springs University teaching and learning component of Barton Springs Fest as a pilot project to Friday, September 18, of that year; and

WHEREAS, the goal of this pilot project was to avoid conflicts with the summer weekend crowd and allow for more participation in Barton Springs University sessions by students, educators, and citizens interested in outdoor learning; and

WHEREAS, free admission to Barton Springs was moved from Barton Springs Fest, the second Saturday in August, to Barton Springs University, in late September, in order to lower the amount of lost Barton Springs gate revenue while increasing the educational value of the Barton Springs University sessions to the Austin community; and

WHEREAS, the Barton Springs University learning sessions and hands on activities are taught by experts and leaders from the City of Austin's Watershed

Protection Department, Parks and Recreation Department, City Council and leading experts from other governmental agencies, educational institutions, and the private sector; and

WHEREAS, the pilot Barton Springs University project successfully increased participation in outdoor learning for students, educators, and citizens, with approximately 450 high school students attending, which increased to approximately 700 students in its second year in 2016 and 900 students in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the continuation of Barton Springs University as an independent annual event will sustain outdoor learning in Austin for years to come and provide a basic literacy in water resources, freshwater ecosystems, and water policy for Austin area students and the general public; and

WHEREAS, the date for this year's Barton Springs University has been set for Tuesday, September 25, 2018; and

WHEREAS, learning sessions at Barton Springs University are planned to run from 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. on that day, with City of Austin experts again leading several of the learning sessions; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the Austin City Council proclaims Tuesday, September 25, 2018 as Barton Springs University Day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Austin City Council supports a Barton Springs University day of learning at Barton Springs to be held on Tuesday, September 25, 2018, at Barton Springs and to be open to the general public with emphasis on enabling Austin area high school and college students to learn from experts on the science, policy challenges, and historic and cultural aspects of Barton Springs, the Edwards Aquifer, and the waters of central Texas; and

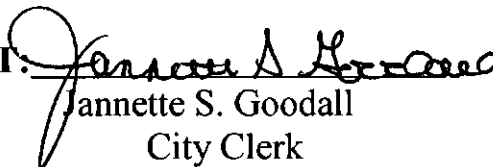
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That admission to Barton Springs on the date of Barton Springs University shall be free; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Austin City Council appreciates and encourages the continued participation and cooperation of Austin Parks and Recreation, Watershed Protection, and Austin Water Utility staff in working with Save Our Springs Alliance, the University of Texas Environmental Science Institute, Austin Independent School District, Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District, Save Barton Creek Association, and others in making the 2018 Barton Springs University event a successful day of outdoor learning and fun at Barton Springs.

ADOPTED: August 9, 2018

ATTEST: 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk