

## **Talking Points for Parks Supporters**

- Keep intact the City Manager's recommendation of \$104.5 million for parks and open space. This is less than half of the Parks Department's \$240 million needs assessment.
- Austin voters have consistently supported funding for parks and open space. When surveyed this summer, 75% of likely voters said that they support at least \$104.5 million in parks and open space bonds without a tax increase. Austin voters favor spending public bond funds for conserving water quality and natural areas.
- Please considering restoring funding to projects recommended by the Bond Task Force:
  - Barton Springs Bathhouse \$2.25 million
  - Violet Crown Trail \$1 million
  - 51<sup>st</sup> Street Vision Plan \$1 million

## **Some important reasons for restoring the Barton Springs Pool Bathhouse project back into the \$385 million bond package:**

- It matches up with PARD priorities to focus on building renovation over new construction
- Improves the capacity for much needed aquatic facilities in this growing city without adding new maintenance costs
- It is in a council approved master plan.
- The short-term projects are nearly done but there are 6 long-term projects left to complete from the master plan
- As a modest step forward, Council should get at least one of them, the bathhouse, to move forward.
- The Bathhouse restoration project makes sense now since the short term rehabilitation of the bathhouse was just completed and the exterior landscaping around the bathhouse will be done by 2013.
- The existing entrance setup to the pool is unfit for the crowds and continued popularity of BSP
- As a vivid and iconic display to users from everywhere and all walks of life, doesn't this historic bath house deserve some significant restoration?

We believe there are many projects in the staff-recommended package that are scalable in size and scope with budgets that can be slightly reduced to accommodate the BSP Bathhouse.

Can we count on your strong support for this proposal?