

Austin, Texas

June 3, 2006

Barton Hills News

Goings-on in our neighborhood

Parks, Parks, Parks

From the Executive Committee:

The Use, Health, and Future of Our Parks: Zilker, Town Lake, and the Greenbelt

Our neighborhood's beautiful green hills are surrounded by some of the city's most treasured parks: Zilker, Town Lake, and the Barton Greenbelt. The use, health, and future of these parks are consistently rated a top concern of Barton Hills residents. For our June 13 BHNA General Meeting, we've got something a little different lined up. We're planning to have a discussion focused exclusively on our parks.

How are we using our parks, and how are we caring for them? What do we need to do to ensure that our parks remain healthy? We're going to hear from a spectrum of parks users and stakeholders representing many viewpoints. They include:

- Austin City Council
- Austin City Limits Music Festival
- Austin Municipal Soccer Association
- Austin Parks & Recreation Department
- Friends of Barton Springs Pool
- Greenbelt Guardians
- Long Center for the Performing Arts
- Town Lake Trail Foundation

We want to hear your views, too! Don't miss this occasion to learn and contribute to the vital conversation.

The Format: In order to keep the discussion constructive, we will have a structured format. Each invited speaker on the panel will be allotted five minutes to provide an overview of the parks from his or her perspective. Once we have heard from all of

the speakers, audience members will have opportunities to provide a statement or ask a question. Questions can be open to all panelists or directed at a single panel member. Each audience member will have an initial opportunity to speak for three minutes. This will be followed by another round of questions and comments, this time with rebuttals, and also with a time limit per speaker. We will do two rounds of audience questions and comments, followed by a final statement from each panelist.

Questions or suggestions? Contact Debby Kalk, BHNA President, at debby@cortexlearning.com or 442-8829.

Invitation to Join BHNA

This is your personal invitation to join the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association. As a member, you will have the opportunity to share in the decisions that will shape our neighborhood for the future. You will also have the wonderful opportunity to meet your fellow BH neighbors at our regularly scheduled meetings and together learn about the many projects and goals for keeping the Barton Hills area one of the most desirable neighborhoods in which to live. Your ideas and comments are important. Come share them as a member of this forward-looking association.

- John Luther

More on Outside

Ground has finally broken on Town Lake Park! Currently fenced off for construction, Phase Two, the most significant of four, is bounded by the Palmer Events Center, the railroad tracks, Barton Springs Road, and Riverside Drive.

The primary features will be a large interactive splash fountain, "Bluebonnet Hill" near Riverside Drive, a wet pond, the "Children's Garden" near the Daugherty, and an egg-shaped loop trail encircling a large meadow west of the events center. Vast new plantings will be watered from Town Lake via a pump station near the lake.

The Riverside Drive realignment was completed on a fast track in November. Once the park is open, the central stretch will be closed on weekends and for events after weeknight rush hour.

Donors have helped enormously. Ranger Excavation donated the excavation of the wet pond and construction of the Bluebonnet Hill. Susan Toomey Frost funded the installation of 31 pecan trees in memory of relatives who planted the pecan groves behind restaurant row. Neighborhood children helped plant them at a workday in March. A mature oak tree was saved from Palmer construction and moved into the park space. We hope this generosity will continue with the underwriting of artworks and other features from a donation catalog.

The new park should open in Spring of next year.

- Larry Akers

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Greenbelt Guardian Glee-Nings

Work Day Report

I like this habit of saying "We had a great work day," which we did on Saturday, April 22, on "It's My Park Day!". Both of our trails needed work, so we took advantage of the extra energy generated by this city-wide event sponsored by the Austin Parks Foundation, and had a team working at each trail. Thanks to our stalwart regulars plus numerous volunteer groups, we had 25 people working at one trail and 26 at the other. In all, 51 people donated approximately 200 hours for the benefit of our Barton Creek Greenbelt.

BHNA volunteers worked in company with volunteers from Save Barton Creek Association, the Klotz Association, the Satha Sai Organization, the National Honor Society, EV Free Church SW Community Group, E-Corps, and one person who identified herself as an Independent Volunteer. And Thundercloud Subs gave us a good discount on the food we provided to all of these generous volunteers.

With enthusiasm, humor, and much hard work, the volunteers gave the Gus Fruh and Homedale Trail entries a lot of good attention. Trail erosion problems were addressed, and soil retention efforts continued with the (ongoing) construction of a large stone retaining wall by the swimming hole. The naturalized, mortared stone edge for the Gus Fruh trail entry continues—we rounded the first bend. We really needed to reclaim wide swaths from overgrowth on the Homedale Entry, and we collected stones to ready ourselves for mortaring them for that entry also. Painted graffiti sprayed on the limestone "beach" was laboriously removed by patient sanding and brushing. And Nandinas were pulled with great abandon, taking advantage of the moist conditions from a recent rain. A "bushwack" invasives team climbed, slipped, and scrambled the steep canyon slopes, taking inventory of the results of the girdling/herbicide treatment from the City's "strike team" last January. The results: of the 192 Ligustrum trees treated, 129 were killed (some still standing, some fallen over), and 63 remain living—some even thriving! Once again, we were impressed by the stamina of our target.

Upcoming Work Days

See box for our next work day, a compassionately short one. We'll work with Halloween spirit on October 28, trail site to be determined. We had a great time last year with costumes and candy and treats. Come join the productive fun!

NEXT GREENBELT GUARDIAN WORK OPPORTUNITY

Saturday, July 15
Early in the Day!

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Gus Fruh Entrance

We Want a Logo

I recently discovered that Stan Ostrum had been sketching ideas in his notebook for a logo for the Greenbelt Guardians, which I had also been doing. We figured it was an idea whose time had come, and thought it would be fun to invite neighbor participation in the creation of a visual representation for what the Greenbelt Guardians are about. So, this is an invitation to submit a visual logo, an image, for the Greenbelt Guardians, if inspired to do so. Please email to: Glee Ingram, gleeful@earthlink.net. Our leadership team will collaborate in the selection.



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Join the Parade

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

It's time for all good Barton Hills residents, families, and friends to come to the aid of your neighborhood!

Save the Date! The Barton Hills Neighborhood Independence Day Parade 2006 is scheduled for Tuesday, July 4th, and will be here before you know it.

As last year, we will muster at the Barton Hills Market (8:30 a.m.) and promenade (9:00 a.m.) to Barton Hills Elementary School and playground for fun and festivities. Thanks to Ali and the Barton Hills Market for their cooperation again this year!

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a fabulously active neighborhood, city, state, and nation to honor. Please consider donating your time, treasures, and talents for this annual parade of freedom in honor of our great United States.

Your help and participation make this annual event a stellar celebration, and we hope you find a place to "plug in" and contribute. We need volunteers. Uncle Sam, or in this particular case, "Uncle Barton" wants YOU! Here are some of the ways you can help ensure this Celebration of Independence is everything YOU want it to be:

1) Committee volunteers are needed to plan and coordinate events on Parade Day. Come on, what are you waiting for?!

2) You could help with publicity and sponsorship. Do you have media contacts? Can you donate \$\$\$ or in-kind items/services?
3) Transportation is needed for special guests and parade floats. If you have a convertible, vintage vehicle, or truck and flat-bed trailer, we'd love to hear from you!

4) Donations of cookies, watermelon, lemonade, and ice are always welcome.

5) Popular games include sack races, piñata, watermelon seed spitting, tug-o-war, and more. Consider coordinating.

6) Set-up and clean-up are supported by a wonderful group leading the fun! Why not join?

7) Are you a band? A marching band? Do you want to form a band? What about a drum corps? Have kazoo will travel! Let us hear from you!

8) Calling all Veterans of all wars! We Want YOU!!!

9) Judges are needed for contests including Best Wagon/Stroller, Best Bike/Trike/Scooter, Best Pet, Most 78704, Most Patriotic, Best Hat.

Let's make this year's Parade the BEST yet. Please contact committee chair Kay Killen at 447-4287 or bhparade2006@hotmail.com to be a part!

Association address:

BHNA
P.O. Box 2042
Austin, TX 78768-2042

Signing Up

BHNA Neighborhood Watch Program

Reducing criminal activity in Barton Hills by observing and reporting suspicious activity or persons to the police is the primary goal for the NW program. Criminals simply do not want to operate in a neighborhood where neighbors are watching out for one another. A proactive approach, using the eyes and ears of BH residents participating in the NW program can and does reduce criminal activity. The program is strongly supported by the Austin Police Department and the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association.

You are encouraged to join this volunteer program by completing the simple NW Volunteer Participation form found on the BHNA website or by picking up a form at the next meeting of the association. Your participation could make the difference in reducing crime in our neighborhood by your becoming an alert volunteer in this important program.

- John Luther

Ride the # 29 Bus!

Signing Off

You're holding the last BH newsletter that Howie Richey will edit. He extends his warmest thanks and best wishes to all his former neighbors.

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BHNA General Meeting Agenda

In This Issue

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

6:00 to 7:00 p.m., Meet-and-Greet Social Outside on Deck
Pizza, Salad, and dessert from Rockin' Tomato

7:00 to 9:00 p.m., General Meeting

Opening Business
Approval of Minutes
4th of July Parade News
Sidewalks Update
Sunken Gardens Report
Greenbelt Guardian Tidings

Main Program:
The Use, Health, and Future
of Our Parks: Zilker, Town
Lake, and the Greenbelt

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More!

Barton Hills News

The newsletter of the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association is published quarterly, and is supported by the advertisements of our generous sponsors. It is distributed in print to every home in Barton Hills in February and June, and only to paid Association Members in April and October.

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