

## B.H.N.A. General Meeting

**Tues. Oct. 21, 2003**  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church

**Barton Creek  
Remediation Plan  
Guest: Les Tull**

### **AGENDA**

**6:00 – 7:00**

Meet & Greet Social  
BBQ Dinner catered by  
Green Mesquite

**7:00 – 9:00**

General Meeting

**Election of BHNA  
Officers for 2004**

**Envision Central  
Texas Regional Plan  
Vote**

**Guest: Brian  
Donovan**

**Committee Reports  
Open Forum**

## This Issue

BHNA Receives Grant . . . .	1
Presidents Message . . . . .	2
In Brief . . . . .	2
“Shape Our Future” Survey	3
Barton Springs Report . . . .	4
Spings Report cont . . . . .	5
Greenbelt Work Day . . . . .	5

**B.H.N.A.  
2402 Rock Terrace Cr.**

# **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 January and June, and only to paid Association Members in April and October.

# Barton Hills News

It's what's going on in your neighborhood

## BHNA Receives Park Grant

**W**e did it! After submitting a detailed proposal in August, BHNA received \$2,075 for several projects. The grant, announced in September, will support volunteer projects to improve the City's parks.

BHNA's highest project priority is to acquire four weed wrenches (\$500) to control invasive plant species such as ligustrum and nandina. The heavy specialized tools provide powerful leverage to easily extract mature plants and roots of these aggressive non-native species that are gradually changing the Greenbelt. The APF thought this was such a good idea, they structured the grant so that at the end of the grant year these tools will revert to a centralized "Tool Library" for loaning to other groups throughout Austin.

Another priority BHNA project is to repair the overlook at the small pool near the bench at the bottom of the Gus Fruh Trail. The current railing leans perilously outward and replacing it with large terraced boulders will eliminate any hazard. This will also reduce severe erosion from floods, preserving a treasured neighborhood swimming hole. Materials costs for the project are estimated at \$1,100. BHNA will request engineering advice for designing the terrace. The remainder of the grant will be used for materials to supplement BHNA Greenbelt Guardian events. Activities for these events will include creating or repairing "water bars" that direct the flow of rainwater to prevent trail erosion, and filling trail ruts with compacted decomposed granite or wood mulch. Other routine activities include creating stone-stack retaining walls to limit erosion in arroyos, providing side rails or hand holds along slippery trail areas, removing weeds and grass growing in the trails, and constructing sturdy footbridges across eroded arroyos.

Whew! It's a lot of work that would not be accomplished without the Greenbelt Guardian program. Gradual reductions in the City's parks budget over several years have eliminated municipal resources for maintaining our portion of the Greenbelt without volunteer help. We're excited about the volunteer response from BHNA members for the Greenbelt Guardian. Most of BHNA's costs for the match will be provided through volunteer labor, calculated at \$10.65 per hour, so it will be important for us to keep attendance logs at each event. No sweat (pardon the pun)! Thanks to you, our turnout for these events has been strong. Other BHNA costs for materials will require match funding up to \$500.

The project agreement between APF and BHNA, signed by BHNA President Robin McKeever, designates BHNA member Glee Ingram as the BHNA Greenbelt Coordinator. Glee earned our applause for the many hours developing a successful grant proposal, not to mention her efforts for previous trail maintenance events. BHNA also expresses appreciation to the Austin Parks Foundation for the Neighborhood Park Grants Program. The purpose of the APF program is "to build and strengthen community support for parks, enabling neighborhood residents to make positive changes in their parks and surrounding communities." Before the end of the grant year on July 31, 2004, we hope to celebrate with a neighborhood party to reflect on significant achievements in partnership with the Austin Parks Foundation and PARD staff.

We look forward to working with BHNA members who value the Greenbelt to achieve the grant program's goals and objectives. Watch for upcoming Greenbelt Guardian events!

# Message From The President

Over the next several months, the City will finalize a remediation plan to clean up toxic PAH contamination from asphalt runoff into Barton Creek. The plan could entail construction of several filtration ponds, including a large one potentially located in the meadow along Barton Hills Drive at the curve near Robert E. Lee. BHNA members should closely monitor the plan. The City's budgetary constraints for remediation and a prominent location in the meadow could create design issues. City staff will attend the BHNA meeting for a discussion.

Envision Central Texas—you've heard a lot about it over the past year. The project, a five-county regional planning effort supported heavily by real estate interests, is about to reach a milestone with the Regional Visioning Survey. The Survey will present four land development scenarios to accommodate a projection of doubling population growth over the next twenty years. The four map scenarios depict a population density scale from most-dense (urban highrises) to least-dense (sprawl). The ultimate master plan resulting from the effort will be important if it is used by the City and County for land use decisions, including significant changes to older neighborhoods like Barton Hills, mass transit planning, and preservation of green spaces. Paper copies of the Survey will be distributed widely, and it will also be available online. The Austin Neighborhood Association is encouraging strong participation from neighborhood residents—you should find our 'hood on each map to analyze each scenario before submitting your response. Plan to attend the BHNA meeting for a discussion of the Survey with a guest speaker from Liveable Cities.

We're extremely pleased to receive grant funding of \$2,075 from the Austin Parks Foundation. The funds will support significant improvements in our portion of the Greenbelt, enhancing and protecting the jewel that we treasure. We hope you'll become regulars at the Greenbelt Guardian events over the next year.

I can scarcely believe it's already time for officer elections again! If you are interested in volunteering for an executive committee position, please contact any member of the current committee, or Emily Mazac at 477-8708. Emily is chairing the Nominations Committee.

It has been a good year of many successes and a disappointment. Even with the disappointment—the Safe Routes to School grant application—there's a silver lining in that the hard group work invested in it is now supporting a new group effort to fill the sidewalk gaps on Barton Hills Drive (see the related story). BHNA members are a resourceful, motivated, dedicated, spirited lot! It's gratifying to see new folks attending the meetings and volunteering for projects. I have particularly enjoyed working with another excellent executive committee of civic activists. Serving as your president over the past couple of years has been a pleasure, where I have learned that this fine organization moves on the efforts of many, many volunteers.

**Robin McKeever**

# Officers

**Robin McKeever**  
President  
442-7446 (h)

**Don Long**  
Vice President  
416-0679 (h)

**Derek Stuart**  
Treasurer  
441-3186 (h)

**Debby Kalk**  
Recording Secretary  
442-8829 (h)

**Lance Schriener**  
Corresponding Secretary  
443-2147 (h)

**Peter Hess**  
Austin Neighborhood  
Council Representative  
445-7289 (h)

# In Brief


## Sidewalk Initiative

**B**HNA members want to get sidewalks built for our neighborhood. The goal is to complete the sidewalk on the west side of Barton Hills Drive, install a walk around the elementary school, and fill in the sidewalks on the east side of Barton Hills Drive. And to work with the City to get sidewalk curb cuts for ramps at every street intersection on Barton Hills Drive and Barton Skyway. Streets and Bridges Dept staff say there is matching money available for a neighborhood-funded project. Our committee will explore grant and fundraising options to fund the sidewalks. Interested? Contact Cindy Bogard at 912-9770 or [cbogard@austin.rr.com](mailto:cbogard@austin.rr.com).



# Show your support for the B.H.N.A. by supporting our advertisers!

If you'd like to place an ad, please contact  
Lance Schrinier at 443-2147 or lanceschriner@netscape.net



**PHOENICIA  
BAKERY & DELI**  
INTERNATIONAL MARKET

---

4701 Burnet Rd. ☐      2912 S. Lamar ☐  
Austin, TX 78756      Austin, TX 78704  
(512) 323-6770      (512) 447-4444



**Homemade food      24 HOURS**  
**Healthy food**  
**Comfort food**

**2700 South Lamar 445-4451**

**it's our 1st anniversary!**



**SERVING  
HANDMADE  
FOOD  
MADE  
FRESH  
RIGHT  
IN  
FRONT  
OF YOU**



**3005 s. lamar 416-1500**  
**3023 guadalupe 480-taco**

W. ROBIN WHITESIDE

**Whiteside Motors**  
Cars • Trucks • Motorcycles

1400 W. Koenig Ln.      Off. 458-5631  
Austin, Texas 78756      Fax. 458-5660



**SUNN WINDOW CLEANING**  
Residential Specialists Since 1982  
**444-5505**  
**\$15.00 Discount!**  
FANS, LIGHT FIXTURES, RAIN GUTTERS, AND POWERWASHING TOO!

**"THE MECHANICS WITH A !"**

**Barton Hills Mobil Station**  
State Inspections      Tires  
Complete Auto      Batteries  
Repair      Flats

**FOREIGN & DOMESTIC AUTO REPAIR**  
**447-8011**  
Honest, Reliable, & Affordable

Hours  
Mon-Sat  
6:30am 9:00pm  
Sunday 8am 9pm  
2900 South Lamar Blvd.



# “Shape Our Future” Survey

**D**id you know that Central Texas is projected to add 1.25 million people in the next 20-40 years?

If current trends continue, Central Texas will add over a million more cars, increase air and water pollution, and require larger tax increases to pay for roads, water, sewage, and electricity. Liveable City and neighborhood groups encourage you to participate in the Envision Central Texas (ECT) “Shape Our Future” Regional Visioning Survey to be conducted from October 6th to October 26th.

What makes the Regional Visioning Survey so important? For the first time in Central Texas, the Visioning Survey initiates a regional public discussion about growth. ECT developed four possible scenarios for population growth with analyses to explain impacts on jobs, pollution, traffic, land use, and housing. The implications for the five-county area of doubling the population have never been presented in such detail. The survey should help Central Texans see the interdependence among the five counties of Travis, Hays, Williamson, Bastrop and Caldwell. It should also suggest questions about the need for policy to protect quality of life in the future.

## Don't Let Others Decide Without You

The survey may be completed online at the Envision Central Texas website (<http://www.envisioncentraltexas.org>). Additionally, the survey is the final page of an 8-page informational brochure that will be widely available throughout the region. The brochure will be distributed in local newspapers including the Statesman, Chronicle and Daily Texan. Liveable City encourages everyone to take the survey.

## For more Information:

• <http://www.envisioncentraltexas.org> for the online survey. ECT resources include a 50-page scenario briefing that has been provided to elected officials in the five-county area.

• <http://www.shapeourfuturesurvey.org> website maintained by a coalition of organizations interested in helping people understand and take the survey.

• <http://www.liveablecity.org>

to volunteer or find out more, contact Brian Donovan at 481-8400 or [brian@liveablecity.org](mailto:brian@liveablecity.org)

## Key Dates

- October 6, 2003: Beginning of Regional Visioning Survey Period
- October 9, 2003: Regional Visioning Survey in Austin American Statesman and Austin Chronicle and other local papers
- October 14, 2003: Liveable City will attend the BHNA meeting with the surveys.
- October 26, 2003: Last day of Regional Visioning Survey
- January 2004: “Consensus Regional Vision” based on survey results presented to ECT board.

**discover**  
*your creative side*

**Preschool**  
morning classes  
Monday - Friday

**After School**  
Zilker, Oak Hill, Pease,  
Travis Heights &  
Dougherty Arts School

**Adult Classes**  
drawing, painting,  
clay, photography  
metalsmithing  
jewelry, animation  
creative writing  
mosaics and more!



**Dougherty Arts School**  
1110 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX 78704 tel. 397-1458  
[www.cityofaustin.org/dougherty/school.htm](http://www.cityofaustin.org/dougherty/school.htm)

Austin Parks and Recreation

# Report from the Barton Springs Committee

The BHNA Barton Springs Committee has been following the issue of PAH pollution by polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) in the sediments at Barton Springs and along Barton Creek. At this point, there is overwhelming consensus that the source of this pollution is a class of parking lot sealants that contains refined coal tar, a byproduct of the coking process used for steel production. The parking lot at the Park Place apartments (the “pink” apartments next to Barton Hills Market) has been identified as a main source of PAH pollution .

An estimated 660,000 gallons of coal tar sealer are being applied annually in Austin by commercial applicators. Typically, the sealant wears off within one to three years and needs to be re-applied. The shaved-off sealant particulates travel in waterways and become part of the sediment in nearby waterways, such as Barton Creek and Barton Springs. The extent of use by homeowners is not well known at this point, but we all can contribute by using asphalt-based sealants exclusively.

In regard to the Barton Springs issue, two strategies will be used to address the problem: prevention and remediation.

The Watershed Protection and Development Review Department has been asked by the City Council to evaluate the usage and environmental impact of coal tar-based pavement sealants containing PAHs--such as the product used at Barton Park Place apartments. We need to keep in mind that such sealants still are legal products as their negative environmental impact never before has been documented. The owners and managers of the Park Place apartments have not broken any laws and have not been negligent. The City is evaluating whether the sale and use of such sealants can be regulated within the City and the extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ). Right now, the City is cooperating with local commercial pavement sealer applicators, pavement sealer retailers (like Home Depot and Lowe’s), and commercial users of such products in the Barton Springs area to learn more about the product and to voluntarily limit or eliminate its sale and use.

The City of Austin asked an outside consultant, Crespo Consulting, to evaluate the existing PAH

problem and to recommend remediation measures. The report by Crespo, submitted to the City in August, recommends the construction of sand filtration ponds. This method was chosen from among a range of possible solutions because PAHs do not easily dissolve and bind to relatively large particles that can be segregated by sand filtration. Various locations for remediation ponds were considered. Crespo and the City are recommending the construction of two filtration ponds in the area of the Park Place apartments.

The main remediation pond is planned in the open space adjacent to Barton Hills Drive (in the sharp curve at the bottom of the hill). Under this plan, the runoff from the Park Place apartments parking lot will be channelled to the pond. This site has four distinct advantages: (1) Of all possible sites, it will capture the run-off from the largest area. In addition to the parking lot, also the lower part of Barton Hills drive will drain into the pond. (2) The overflow from that pond will be directed in a pipe to the drainage channel along Robert E. Lee and will join Barton Creek below Barton Springs Pool. (3) It is not located in the 100-year flood plain. (4) It is not located within 400 feet of Barton Creek (the Critical Water Quality Zone) and thus does not need a variance under the SOS Ordinance. A second, much smaller pond will be built in the ravine that currently drains most of the parking lot. This second pond will be necessary to drain a small section of the parking lot that lies below the level of the main filtration pond.

The proposed site also has clear negatives. While the area generally is not a high use area of Zilker Park, community youth soccer teams use the area for practice in the early evening hours. The pond also will be clearly visible from Barton Hills Drive. While some contemporary filtration pond designs can be visually attractive, there also is the potential for an eyesore at the entrance to our neighborhood. One dilemma is that more attractive designs tend to use more space, while space-saving measures, such as concrete retention walls, tend to be visually undesirable. An additional point to consider is whether a design will require a fence.

–continued on next page–

The estimated schedule for the Barton Creek sedi-

cont.

ment removal and storm water retrofit projects is as follows:

- August to October 2003: Public meetings with interested stakeholders, boards and commissions
- October 2003 to March 2004: Design
- March to August 2004: Permitting and bidding
- August 2004 to February 2005: Construction

The City also plans to build smaller retention ponds on the other side of Barton Creek at Spyglass (across from Homedale access) and at the so-called Grotto near the cliffs. So far, no retention pond for the tributary that drains the Barton Parkway area (and up to Barton Skyway and Lamar) has been considered.

Les Tull from the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department is in charge of the project. He will give a presentation to our membership at our October 14 meeting. Please be there, and bring your questions. This will be our best chance to shape the project and to push for a design to our liking. A strong attendance is important to be heard and to have an impact.

## Greenbelt Guardian Work Day

**T**rails Maintenance Work Day: October 25, Saturday, 8:30-3:00. Meet at the Homedale trail entry on Homedale Street immediately behind Barton Hills Elementary School. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up in advance for effective planning of the materials and tools to have on site. On Saturday, be sure to sign in and out at the trailhead worktable—we must carefully track hours labor to honor our matching part of the Austin Parks Foundation grant to BHNA.

We have an ambitious work plan and diverse activities scheduled:

**Trail Edging/Erosion Control** – install cedar round posts, donated by neighbor Art Stone, along the outer trail by steep drop offs to reduce erosion.

**Stonework** – 1) continue the construction of the retaining wall to support our new bridge and the arroyo that it crosses; 2) construct large stone steppers to create a safer entry onto the rock flats from the woodlands trail.

**Pruning** – cut back overgrowth into the pathway that is harmful to trail users.

**Trail Weeding and Reclamation** – reclaim portions of the trail's edge, relaying rock edging, resurfacing and repacking as necessary.

**Invasive Species Management** – remove ligustrum and nandina

**Revegetation** – plant new native growth in the cleared spaces relieved of invasive species, using seeds harvested on site and purchased for this occasion.

**Trash Clean-Up** – scour the creek bed and trails from Campbell's Hole to the Gus Fruh entry, collecting the unnatural debris left by human use of the trails.

One of the goals of the Greenbelt Guardian program is to provide educational information for improving the health of the Greenbelt and Barton Creek through individual action. We have an opportunity to expand this educational effort through an exemplary City of Austin program called the "Green Gardening Block Leader Program." Block Leaders are needed throughout our neighborhood to assure that this information is widely disseminated. If you are willing to distribute this information to your immediate neighborhood four times a year, spreading helpful "seeds of information" to help us live more lightly on our aquifer, please contact Robin McKeever at [rmckeever@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rmckeever@sbcglobal.net) or 442-7446.

We look forward to an enthusiastic turn out! Please notify Glee Ingram at [gleeful@earthlink.net](mailto:gleeful@earthlink.net) or call 443-7522. It is helpful if you indicate which work activity you wish to participate in and how many hours you can work with us.