



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Sara L. Hensley, CPRP, Director  
Austin Parks and Recreation

**DATE:** May 2, 2011

*S. Hensley*

**SUBJECT:** Parks and Recreation Department Hires a Conservation Program Coordinator

The Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) is pleased to announce the hiring of Jake Stewart to oversee the Community Gardens and Urban Farms Initiative for the City of Austin. This position will serve as a resource and coordinator for community groups interested in establishing community gardens on city owned land as well as a focus on working with groups to promote sustainable urban farming. The position will provide technical assistance such as appropriate permits, approvals and or use agreements necessary to use city land.

The role of the Conservation Program Coordinator will involve working closely with the City's Chief Sustainability Officer as well as community groups such as Sustainable Food Center and the Sustainable Food Policy Board to achieve city and community goals.

Jake has a Bachelors Degree in Bioenvironmental Science, from Texas A&M University, and a Master Degree in Environmental Science and Policy from University of North Texas. Jake's employment background involves working professionally in environmental science, urban food production and community sustainability for the last ten years. Jake's start date is scheduled for May 23, 2011 and will office at the PARC Annex Building, 919 W. 28 1/2 Street.

Please join us in welcoming Jake Stewart.

cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager  
Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager  
Lucia Athens, Chief Sustainability Officer  
Kelly Snook, ASLA, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director