



City of Austin

Austin Parks and Recreation Department
200 South Lamar Boulevard, Austin, Texas 78704

July 15, 2011

Norma Fowler
nfowler@uts.cc.utexas.edu

Dear Dr. Fowler,

I wanted to follow up again from the earlier email response regarding the bracted twistflower (*Streptanthus bracteatus*) on City of Austin parkland. We take our role in protecting this wildflower and other environmental treasures very seriously.

Our staff has worked closely with the Balcones Canyonland Conservation Plan (BCCP) staff on the Mount Bonnell project to ensure that the scope of work proposed by the volunteers is reviewed by BCCP and that the implementation of the work is completed within the set guidelines required by the BCCP staff. BCCP staff has revised a few aspects of the overall plan to include adding barriers to close or restrict access to trails that might impact the bracted twistflower which our department is in support of and will assist in installing. Any future improvements to Mount Bonnell will be reviewed by BCCP staff and will require that the project be reviewed using a modified version of their Trail Master Planning (TMP) Process in order to gain BCCP approval. This modified version of the process was specifically developed by BCCP staff for future projects at Mt. Bonnell with a focus on vegetation management instead of trail installation. Any future training performed by the Austin Fire Department (AFD) will be required to find a new location. We will work with AFD to find a more suitable location for any mountain/cliff ropes training.

To address the negative effects of the unauthorized mountain bike trails in Barton Creek and in Bull Creek our staff will be installing signage to encourage visitors to stay on the designed trails. We will be providing education of the bracted twistflower (*Streptanthus bracteatus*) on our website with the aid of our partners in BCCP. Lastly, we are in the final stages of authorizing funds to be used to provide a fence (four foot wood post and single steel wire) on the upper east side of Bull Creek District Park on the property line. This remedy has been planned for the last year and is designed to stop the mountain bikers from crossing into parkland from private property on top of the hill as they ride down the hill.

With all these measures we hope to provide the protection needed for the bracted twistflower; however staff will continue to evaluate the means of protection and the effects on the flower as visitors use our parks.



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If you have any questions please contact Troy Houtman, Ground Division Manager at (512) 974-9481 or via email at Trou.Houtman@ci.austin.tx.us.

Sincerely,

Sara L. Hensley, CPRP, Director
Austin Parks and Recreation Department

Cc: Mayor Lee Leffingwell
Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager
Kelly Snook, ASLA, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department
Troy Houtman, Division Manager, Parks and Recreation Department