



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Parks and Recreation Board

**Recommendation Number: (20170124-008): Support for the City of Austin Acquisition of the
Headwaters of Blunn Creek for Dedicated Parkland**

WHEREAS, on December 8, 2016, the Austin City Council voted to authorize the acquisition of real property offered through an invitation for bid by the Austin Independent School District,

WHEREAS, that real property includes a 9.32 acre site at the 400 block of Alpine Road, which constitutes the headwaters of Blunn Creek,

WHEREAS, the Blunn Creek watershed is a jewel of Austin, encompassing a nature preserve, St. Edwards University, Travis High School, Travis Heights Elementary School and Stacy Park Greenbelt including Big Stacy and Little Stacy,

WHEREAS, the undeveloped portion of the AISD property at Alpine Road contains approximately 700' of the headwaters of Blunn Creek, the beginning of where the creek forms into a channel, including an historic spring on the site,

WHEREAS, the site includes a variety of mature trees, making up a canopy cover of about 30% with a variety of hydrophytic/wetland trees, including Black Willow, Pecan, Cottonwood, Green Ash and Sycamore. These trees are distributed through-out parcel, making up about 25% of the extant woodland, and indicate that the water table is accessible. There is also quite a bit of recruitment of seedlings and saplings of desirable species throughout that suggest it is in the process of recovery,

WHEREAS, this parcel could be extremely useful, if preserved or rehabilitated, in the protection of water quality and quantity in Blunn Creek. It could be used more actively to infiltrate stormflow from surrounding impervious surfaces, potentially enhancing base flow and improving water quality on Blunn Creek.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parks and Recreation Board strongly supports the Austin City Council effort to acquire the Headwaters of Blunn Creek for Dedicated Parkland.

Date of Approval: January 24, 2017

Record of the vote:

Approved by the Parks and Recreation Board on a vote 7-2 with Board Members Vane and Wimberly voting against and Board Members Larkins and Schmitz absent.

Attest:

Staff Liaison